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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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INSIDE

LOCAL



Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. turns 40 this month.

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Task Force Guam let its feet do the talking in its last act of goodwill.

► PAGE 24



Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation donates lavatories to the Aging Center.

► PAGE 27

Aetna's contract extended, with 40 pct. premium hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the government entered into a one-month contract extension with Aetna for government health insurance with some 40-percent increase in premiums. Aetna's contract was supposed to expire on Dec. 31, but this has been extended to Jan. 31.

» **StayWell 'withdraws'; Calvo's SelectCare 'still in the running'**
» **Government may issue new RFP**

"40 percent," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*, when asked about the increase in health insurance premiums.

Without this contract extension, more than 2,000 individuals would be left without health insurance until the government signs a new agreement with another firm.

"They [Aetna] agreed to do the one-month extension but on the new rates... Right now they're trying to do a variation on the rate depending on the options

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Inos revives CUC board

» **Of 3 appointees, 2 need Legislature's consent**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Making true to his promise of reviving the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s board of directors, Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed three individuals to serve on the CUC board. Two will need the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives. The current Commonwealth Development Authority board chairman

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HOMEWARD BOUND

Soldiers from Task Force Guam, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook on Dec. 25 from Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan, during Guam's last push out of the country. Task Force Guam officially ended Operation Enduring Freedom on Dec. 26 and started its return home.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

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Poll: Americans hopeful for a better year in 2014

By JENNIFER AGIESTA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ready to ring in the new year, Americans look ahead with optimism, according to a new AP-Times Square New Year's Eve poll.

Their ratings of the year gone by? Less than glowing.

What the public thought of 2013:

GOOD YEAR OR GOOD RIDDANCE?

On the whole, Americans rate their own or the world at large, things turn sour.

ON THE NET

► **AP-GfK Poll:**
<http://www.ap-gfkipoll.com>

experience in 2013 more positively than negatively, but when asked to assess the year for the United States

■ All told, 32 percent say 2013 was a better year for them than 2012, while 20 percent say it was worse and 46 percent say the two years were really about the same. Young people were more apt to see improvement: 40 percent of people under age 30 called 2013 a better year than 2012, compared with 25 percent of

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Legislature blamed for PSS' arrears with CUC. PAGE 2
New CNMI Labor secretary sworn in. PAGE 3

Local

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Legislature blamed for PSS' arrears with CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The lawsuit filed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. against public schools could have been avoided if lawmakers had given the Public School System enough budget for utilities.

This was the sentiment expressed by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, who disclosed that PSS, for many years now, has been getting very limited funding for the electric and water consumption of all 19 campuses on three islands.

CUC recently filed a collection lawsuit against PSS, the hospital, and the central government for unpaid obligations amounting to over \$18 million and growing. Of this amount, some \$6 million represents arrears incurred by the school system across many years.

At this point, Sablan said, the system has no financial capability to pay the outstanding arrears and blamed lawmakers for continuously failing to provide an adequate budget for schools' utility costs.

"Every year, we go up the Legislature and put the budget we need for CUC...and every year, they don't give us. If they only appropriate money we need for utilities, then definitely we won't be caught in this situation," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

In the past, utility costs of public schools, along with other government instrumentalities, were shouldered by the central government. This was stopped after government revenue dropped a few years ago.

Since then, PSS has been given a little over \$2 million for utilities despite an average of over \$4 million in yearly cost.

In fiscal year 2014 alone, PSS has only \$2.3 million (out of its \$33-million budget) to take care

of CUC bills. The rest of the appropriation goes to personnel salary and benefits.

Sablan disclosed that despite having some collectibles from the central government, no pennies could be used or redirected to pay the \$6 million arrears with CUC.

Sablan said that PSS and the State Board of Education will definitely approach Gov. Eloy S. Inos to help resolve this matter.

"I will ask the governor what happened to the memorandum of agreement because I don't know where it went and what happened to it," added Sablan.

She was referring to a series of discussions between the Executive Branch and the PSS last year, in order to implement an MOU that would stipulate the Executive Branch's commitment to shoulder PSS' arrears with CUC. However, these all fell through.

"I can understand the challenges [of the government]. I just wish we could agree in one meeting that this is what's going to happen. We had too many meetings [before on this CUC issue] and we're still running around. It's already December 2013 so I hope we can resolve this immediately so we're not distracted in our focus," said Sablan, adding that PSS took it upon itself to conserve energy in all levels.

Meantime, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) is worried about the impact the CUC lawsuit will have on public education.

"It's going to be a shame if we shut down our schools. I understand that there was an arrangement made but apparently, that fell through," he told *Saipan Tribune* during his visit Friday to the central office.

Sablan said that if PSS was challenged last fiscal year, "it would be tougher for our schools this new fiscal year."

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New CNMI Labor secretary sworn in



Gov. Eloy S. Inos administers the oath of office for new CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero yesterday morning at the Office of the Governor.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In the presence of her family and friends, former Workforce Investment Agency executive

director Edith DeLeon Guerrero took her oath of office yesterday morning as CNMI Labor secretary. This comes at a time when the Commonwealth needs to get as many U.S. workers as possible in the workforce to reduce reliance on foreign workers. The transitional foreign worker program would end after Dec. 31, 2014, unless extended up to 2019.

DeLeon Guerrero couldn't help tearing up when she thanked her family for their support, as well as Gov. Eloy S. Inos for "believing in me."

"I have come a long way in life," DeLeon Guerrero said in a brief ceremony on Capital Hill.

"To my son Jay who is still serving our country, this is also for him, and to all my children, my family, my siblings, the staff of Labor."

» DeLeon Guerrero: I ask for your blessings, support so we can move forward

She said there's "a lot of work ahead of us" but expressed confidence that with teamwork built, "we'll be very successful in what we're doing."

"We made some progress already since I took over as acting secretary of Labor. But again I'm doing this all in the best interest of the Commonwealth. I come with sincerity, and I just want to do a good job for everybody," the Department of Labor secretary said.

She asked for blessings and support "so that we can move forward with what we need to do [for] the Commonwealth."

The governor, before administering the oath of office to DeLeon Guerrero, acknowledged her hard work as WIA executive director and her new challenges as Labor secretary.

Inos said even his office received WIA trainees, and "it's always good when we see most [WIA] trainees move forward

toward permanent employment not only in government but [also] in the private sector."

The governor also noted that DeLeon Guerrero heads the Labor Task Force, whose objective is to get as many local people employed to reduce the

need for foreign workers.

"With a team put together, government and private, I'm sure we will be able to achieve that goal. And finally get more local folks on board," Inos added.

DeLeon Guerrero's swearing in came six days after the Senate confirmed her appointment, along with that of three other

governor's appointments.

Before her appointment as acting Labor secretary, DeLeon Guerrero was WIA executive director from 2006 to Oct. 2, 2013. Her Labor secretary appointment also coincided with the merging of WIA and the Department of Labor at the start of fiscal year 2014 on Oct. 1.

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Ex-prison guard found positive for 'ice' use, curfew violations

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former Corrections officer who is scheduled to go on trial in February on drug charges has been found in violation of his pre-trial release conditions after

testing positive for methamphetamine or "ice" use.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola informed the U.S. District Court for the NMJ on Monday about Mariano Q. Falig Jr.'s violations of his release conditions.

Arriola disclosed that Falig tested presumptive positive for "ice" use last Dec. 13, during his quarterly testing at the Marianas Counseling Services. When asked about the test results, Falig allegedly admitted that he had used the drug earlier

that morning.

Arriola said that Falig asked to be enrolled in a substance abuse program to help him cope with his addiction.

Arriola said that Falig also violated his daily 6pm to 6am curfew.

Arriola said he received a "did not return" alert from the Monitoring Center, indicating that Falig failed to return to his house by 6pm last Dec. 5.

On Dec. 6, Arriola received an "unauthorized enter" alert from the Monitoring Center, indicating that Falig returned home at 2:29am.

Arriola said that on Dec. 14, he received another "did not return" alert and that no one answered the phone at Falig's house.

Arriola said an "unauthorized enter" alert was received at 6:51pm, indicating that Falig returned home.

Arriola said when confront-

ed about these curfew violations and failure to answer phone calls, Falig made several reasons that turned out to be false. He said Falig apologized, saying he was confused with a lot of issues going on in his mind.

The indictment charged the defendant with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, distribution of methamphetamine, and using, carrying, or possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime.

Falig was temporary released after posting a \$50,000 appearance bond, secured by real property.

POLL

From Page 1

people age 65 or older.

■ The public splits evenly on how the year turned out for the country, 25 percent saying it was better than 2012, 25 percent saying it was worse. As with most questions about the state of affairs in the U.S. these days, there's a sharp partisan divide. Democrats are more apt to say the U.S. turned out better in 2013 than 2012 (37 percent) than are Republicans (17 percent).

■ Thinking about the world at large, 30 percent say 2013 was worse than 2012, while just 20 percent say it was better.

But the outlook for the new year is positive: 49 percent think their own fortunes will improve in 2014, 14 percent are anticipating the new year to be a downgrade from the old. Thirty-four percent say they don't expect much to change.

WHERE'S THE PARTY?

Most Americans—54 percent—say they'll be ringing in the new year at home, while 1 in 5 are heading to a friend's or family

member's house. Only 8 percent say they'll go to a bar, restaurant or other organized event.

■ Younger Americans are least apt to spend the holiday at home: 39 percent of those under age 30 will celebrate at home, 33 percent at someone else's home, 13 percent at a bar or other venue.

■ Regardless of their own time zone, nearly 6 in 10 say they'll watch at least some of the celebration from New York City's Times Square.

COUNTDOWN COMPANIONS

Wherever they're spending the holiday, most Americans prefer the company of family. Asked with whom they want to be when the clock strikes midnight, 83 percent name a family member.

■ On a holiday often sealed with a kiss, nearly 4 in 10 say they most want to be next to their spouse, and 13 percent cite a significant other or romantic interest as a preferred companion. Parents like to be with their children, more than the children like to be with their parents.

■ Less conventional choices:

2 percent cite their pets, 3 percent God, Jesus or their religious congregation, and less than 1 percent said they wanted to ring it in with their co-workers.

■ Of course, some opt out altogether: 18 percent say they're not planning to celebrate on New Year's Eve, and 9 percent say there's no one with whom they'd like to party, preferring instead their pillow, TiVo or their own thoughts.

WHAT MATTERED IN NEWS

The implementation of the health care law topped the list of the most important news stories of 2013, with 26 percent citing it. In an Associated Press survey of news directors and editors, 45 of 144 journalists surveyed called the health care rollout their top story.

In the AP-Times Square poll, the death of Nelson Mandela occurred as the poll was underway. It rose quickly, with 8 percent naming it as the most important news of the year, matching the share citing the federal government's budget difficulties or shutdown.

The budget fight, which led

to a partial shutdown of the federal government in October, was rated extremely or very important by 60 percent of Americans, and prompted rare bipartisan agreement. About two-thirds in each major party, 65 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of Democrats, rated it highly important.

A majority said the Boston Marathon bombings were extremely or very important, and 47 percent considered the national debate over gun laws that important.

POP CULTURE: MOSTLY FORGETTABLE MOMENTS

Miley Cyrus's MTV Video Music Awards performance. The launch of "Lean In." Apologies from Paula Deen and Lance Armstrong. Walter White's exit and the entrance of the Netflix series "House of Cards." What do they all have in common? More Americans say these pop culture moments were more forgettable than memorable.

Just one pop culture moment was deemed more memorable than forgettable: The birth of Prince George to Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate.

Cost data shows that health care services in the CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines are significantly lower than those provided in the mainland United States.

In examining this issue, if the CNMI government can limit where care is provided and still meet the medical needs of the majority of participants, it can cut overall costs. This is a delicate balance, as there are CNMI retirees spread out all over the world, although the vast majority is in the CNMI.

The administration said the latest health care insurance data indicates there are a total of 2,267 enrollees, 2,059 of which are located in the CNMI and 208 of which are spread throughout the world.

One of the health care insurance proposals submitted to the government shows the cost of providing health insurance coverage to the 208 participants living outside the CNMI presents a significant cost that is driving rate increases.

One proposal the government is considering is requiring persons living in the U.S. mainland to enroll in the U.S.-sponsored health care exchange programs because they would be more affordable to retirees.

None of the proposals submitted provides for a continuation of the current benefits at the same rates. All of the proposals call for cost increases and reduced benefits.

AETNA

From Page 1

available," Inos said in an interview at the swearing in of Edith DeLeon Guerrero as CNMI Labor secretary on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Aetna did not bid on a government request for proposals for health insurance coverage. Two other insurance firms did.

Inos said yesterday that Stay-Well already "withdrew," while Calvo's SelectCare is "still in the running."

However, the governor said this does not necessarily mean that SelectCare would bag a contract with the CNMI government because a new RFP may be issued.

"Because of the scope of the services that we're looking at and the jurisdictional coverage plus the type of the service that we really want at the minimum, it's very likely that we will issue a whole new RFP," Inos said.

Weeks back, the governor said health insurance premiums for government employees and retirees could go up by 30 percent to 45 percent as early as Jan. 1, 2014, because of rising costs of healthcare. There might also be possible impacts of the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare on health insurance premiums in the CNMI.

At the time, one estimate for healthcare benefits received would increase premiums by

43 percent, which would increase total annual costs from approximately \$18 million to \$25 million.

This increase adds to the millions of dollars that the government needs to come up with in fiscal year 2014, along with other obligations such as to the Retirement Settlement Fund and the restoration of the 25-percent cut in retirees' pension.

Lawmakers said they will continue to work on revenue-generating bills, following the signing into law of video lottery and electronic gaming.

The governor said yesterday that the government is revisiting the health insurance program.

"For now, we just have an agreement to extend Aetna for one month as we look into other alternatives. Whatever the outcome will be on this whole project, we believe that there will be an increase in the premium and that's also a concern and we're looking into it because of the question of affordability," Inos said.

He said the government wants to make sure that the health insurance contract it enters into is, "at the minimum, addresses many of the concerns that especially retirees have, because they've got more need for more frequent hospitalization and things like that, plus the geographical coverage, not just here, in Guam but also in the Philippines, in the U.S. mainland

and the kind of network that's available in those areas. So we're looking for the best possible option."

The increase in premium or the rate itself is a function of many factors, but "primarily a factor of the amount of deductible and the services to be provided, and the geographical area," Inos added.

In fiscal year 2013, the CNMI government's health insurance cost was approximately \$18 million, while initial cost estimates for fiscal 2014 increased by 43 percent to approximately \$25 million.

Because the CNMI cannot afford this increase, it must figure out a way to restructure the program to continue to provide affordable health insurance benefits.

The administration earlier said the current cost for a single employee under the current plan is \$178.64 a month, which would face an increase of \$78.62 for a total of \$255.46 per month.

Similarly, a family with two dependents paying \$571.62 a month would see a \$245.80 increase to \$817.42 per month for continuing coverage.

In reviewing the various health care insurance models, one proposal the administration is considering is to limit health care benefits to services provided in the CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines or select U.S. providers.

INOS

From Page 1

will have automatic CUC board membership.

Lawmakers welcomed the governor's latest move, hoping that this would help start a shift to renewable energy and lower utility rates.

"I hope that they work expeditiously on the RFP [request for proposals] for alternative baseload power plant so that the consumers of CUC can see a reduction in power rates," House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee vice chair Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The governor appointed Diego M. Songao, chairman of the CDA board of directors, to serve on the CUC board.

The governor said pursuant to 4 CMC Section 8131(a)(1), the chairman of the CDA board of directors "shall serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp."

Inos said Songao's term as CUC board member "begins immediately" and will run concurrent with his term as CDA board chairman.

"This appointment does not require legislative advice and consent," Inos said in his Dec. 23 appointment letter to Songao, a copy of which was released to the media only yesterday.

The governor also appointed Adelina Roberto and Christopher A. Concepcion to serve on the CUC board.

Unlike Songao, Roberto and Concepcion's initial appointments require the advice and consent of both the Senate and House. Both will represent Saipan on the board, while Songao represents Rota.

If confirmed, Roberto and Concepcion will each serve a four-year term beginning on the date confirmed by both chambers of the Legislature.

The counting of the four-year term starts on the date approved by the upper house of the Legislature.

Inos said he is fully aware of the important work before the CUC board, and he is confident that the appointees are qualified and will be an asset to the board.

The appointees are required to file a statement of financial

interest with the Office of the Public Auditor, a copy of their résumé, police clearance, drug test receipt, and drug test result.

Rep. Lorenzo DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House PUTC Committee, separately said yesterday that the CNMI "needs a board to govern an autonomous entity."

"CUC is way out on their own, that's why many lawsuits [are filed]. I wish they would be confirmed tomorrow," he said.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the Senate PUTC Committee, also looks forward to a functioning CUC board.

"We need to get things done and I'm not convinced that CUC board is not needed. Lots of crazy rate increases kept popping up and little or snail pace effort to move us out of diesel engine operations without further studying last year and many years of study. I'm tired of studies and poor action. So I welcome CUC board and pray we can provide some relief to residents and commercial customers," Reyes said.

Months back, Inos said would start nominating qualified individuals to serve on the CUC board, which will be revived years after CUC was placed directly under the governor or his representative's control.

But finding the right persons that meet the complex statutory qualifications and making sure those qualified persons would want to volunteer had been a challenge.

Inos, like his predecessors, has been extending many of the provisions of an executive order declaring a state of emergency for CUC.

The continuing CUC emergency declaration cites the continued need to employ skilled technical foreign workers in the absence of qualified U.S. citizen workers, and a lack of a functioning CUC board.

The CUC emergency declaration also allows the governor to reprogram funds, and suspend procurement laws or rules to address the CUC emergency.

CUC is still owed some \$18 million by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in unpaid utility billings. Millions more are owed by residential customers of CUC.

Kilili: Old MOE formula remains intact for PSS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan says the central government is still required to give the Public School System \$7 million in unremitted maintenance-of-effort funds, pursuant to the mandates

of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

This comes after Sablan confirmed that the U.S. Department of Education issued no response or action to the proposal of the CNMI government to change the formula in

calculating the MOE award.

The CNMI received in 2009 \$44 million in SFSF funds, of which \$32.3 million is for public education.

When the CNMI was awarded the SFSF grant, one of the conditions was that PSS must be given a specific amount of the overall budget of the CNMI government—at the time equivalent to 40 cents to \$1 dollar or 25 percent of the overall CNMI government budget.

The issue over the MOE formula came to light after the CNMI government filed a waiver application for it in 2012. The USDOE has not issued a response up to now.

“The fact that there’s no decision [by USDOE] means we have to live with the first decision, which is good for PSS. The

MOE’s first formula remains and that has not changed,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Tribune learned that in PSS books, the central government owes it \$7 million in unremitted MOE for fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan just wants the whole matter done and over with.

“For me, I wanted it resolved. I just want that MOE issue out of the way. The whole issue here is that the central government owes us millions of money that is badly needed in our classrooms. It’s the government’s responsibility to pay us,” she said.

Once they receive the funds, it will all be utilized for the classroom and instructional needs of schools.

She is firm that there’s no way all or a portion of this unremitted MOE will be used to pay CUC arrears.

“Whatever federal money we get from MOE will go to the classrooms where it belongs,” she added.

As to when this money will go

to PSS is uncertain up to this time.

Saipan Tribune learned that the original amount of unremitted MOE for PSS was \$11 million. However, in the late part of school year 2010-2011, the central government remitted some \$2.6 million to pay for personnel salary.

Two drown in Guam on Christmas Day

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Guam’s waters claimed the lives of two men in a Christmas Day tragedy off the Jonestown cliffline.

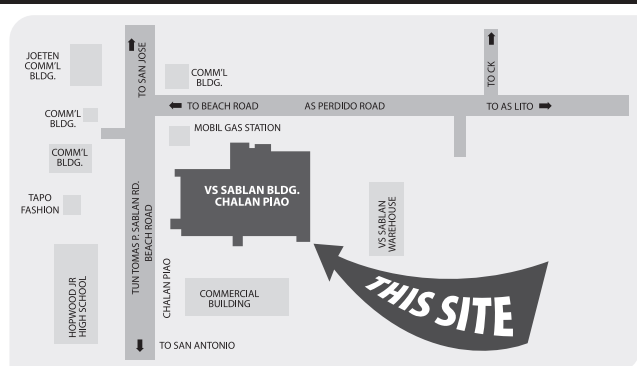
Guam Fire spokesman Lt. Ed Artero said the body of a 37-year-old man was recovered by divers about 5:30pm Wednesday. A second 40-year-old man who was pulled alive from the water was later pronounced dead at Naval Hospital, said GMH Nursing Su-

pervisor Cely Mangrobang.

Artero said the 911 call came in just before 4pm. GPD’s Harbor Unit and the Coast Guard joined in the rescue and subsequent recovery effort.

In addition to the two Christmas Day deaths, Mangrobang said a 67-year-old Japanese tourist died Tuesday. He had been in critical condition since Friday when he was pulled from Tumon Bay.

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Sablan's request for release pending sentencing denied

The federal court has denied the request of former CNMI adult probation officer Robin N. Sablan to be released from jail pending his sentencing on drug charges.

At a hearing Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Sablan may not be a flight risk but he still poses a danger to the community because of his past drug use.

Manglona also moved Sablan's

sentencing on Jan. 17, 2014, to March 5, 2014.

Sablan was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Sablan was been detained at the Department of Corrections since federal authorities arrested him on Aug. 22, 2012, for conspiring with others to distribute methamphetamine or "ice." In October 2012, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute "ice" as part of a plea deal.

Sablan, through court-appointed

counsel Steven Pixley, moved the court for his release to his mother as third party custodian pending his sentencing.

Pixley argued that Sablan is not a flight risk and has no history of com-

mitting any violent crime or offense.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton said the U.S. government has no objection to Sablan's release pending his sentencing, assuming the conditions for his release are acceptable to the court and the U.S. Probation Office.

At the hearing on Friday, Pixley inquired with U.S. Probation as to their objection based on Sablan's past drug use.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Ariola stated that their objection to the defendant's release was based on his prior non-compliance with release conditions. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Small craft advisory

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management issued a small craft advisory yesterday, warning that winds of 15 to 25 knots and com-

bined seas of 9 to 11 feet are expected to produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft until Friday.

The small craft advisory is now in effect until 6 pm Friday, when seas are expected to decrease.

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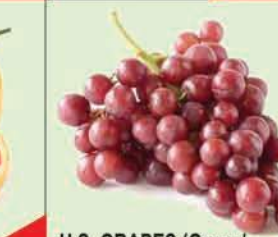
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2 men get jail time for disturbance

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has imposed prison terms on two men who both pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace in separate cases.

Naraja on Tuesday slapped Joaquin Adriano Jr. with six months imprisonment, all suspended except for four days, and imposed a sentence of six months in prison, all suspended except for four months and seven days on Martino Martin Omelau.

Adriano and Omelau were released that day as they were given credit for time served. Adriano already served four days in jail. Omelau spent four months and seven days in jail since his arrest.

Adriano, 31, was placed on probation for one year, while

Omelau, 35, was placed on probation for six months.

In addition, Adriano was ordered to perform 150 hours of community service and pay a \$350 fine, \$25 court fee, and \$100 probation fee. He was required to complete anger management counseling.

Omelau was ordered to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 court fee, and \$60 probation fee. He is prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages during his probation.

The amended information charged Adriano with disturbing the peace (domestic violence). Omelau was charged with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The two signed plea agreements with the government and pleaded guilty

to disturbing the peace.

According to the plea deal, on Aug. 1, 2013 on Saipan, Adriano was involved in a verbal altercation with his girlfriend in the presence of their minor children. Adriano's actions disturbed his girlfriend's peace.

In Omelau's case, the plea agreement states that on Aug. 16, 2013, on Saipan, the defendant, who was intoxicated

at the time, disturbed the peace of his brother-in-law by shouting profanities at him at a family gathering.

Police said that Omelau hit his brother-in-law in the eye with a rock during a drinking session at a house in Chalan Kanoa. The victim sustained a two-inch laceration in the upper left eye and was taken to the hospital. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Sobriety checkpoints Saturday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Dec. 28, 2013.

■ 5pm to 6:15pm, along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya by the CUC Waterloo, westbound lane.

■ 8:30pm to 9:45pm, Beach Road Garapan, across from Bank Pacific, southbound lane.

■ 10:30pm to 11:45pm, Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence, southbound lane. *(DPS)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 27, 2005

Fund to sue NMI govt

The NMI Retirement Fund has decided to finally file legal action against the government for failing to pay off its employer contributions, now amounting to \$85 million. Fund board chair Joseph Reyes said that the matter was discussed during the board meeting held Thursday last week. "The board adopted to bring [the issue] to court for whatever resolution that's appropriate. I have been authorized to pursue this," said Reyes in an interview. He said the Fund will go after the Executive Branch, particularly the Department of Finance, and possibly the Legislature for possible liability in connection with the government's severe lack of funding.

Letters pour in on proposed safe haven

Vietnamese people from different parts of the world seems to have started a campaign to bombard the CNMI government with letters in support of the proposed safe haven regulations. Since last week, letters have been pouring into the office of Speaker and governor-elect Benigno R. Fitial asking for support for an effort to establish a safe house in the Commonwealth for Vietnamese girls sold to white slavery in Cambodia. Letters sent by six different people from the Netherlands and three others from Australia have identical content.

December 27, 2006

Holiday sales OK but still low

Holiday sales this year did better than expected but was still low compared to previous years, according to several stores. "It's better than expected. The economy is down and we actually expected to do not as well as we ended up doing. It's still a drop from last year but not as bad as we had anticipated. It is a good thing," said Clarence P. Tenorio Jr., vice president of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, which oversees the Joeten chain of stores. He said it was a blessing that Christmas fell on a weekend. "We had the whole weekend so it boosted sales," he said. Tenorio said there were more people who shopped late this year.

New law lowers PUC board requirements

The administration-backed amendment to the Public Utilities Commission became law a day after it passed the Legislature, it was learned yesterday. Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez on Friday signed House Bill 15-191, which lowers the qualifications for PUC appointees and allows the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to proceed with its privatization plan while PUC is being formed. The bill passed the House of Representatives on Nov. 24, 2006, and then the Senate last Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006. The measure now becomes Public Law 15-40.

December 27, 2007

'Stop live fire bombings at Farallon'

Lawmakers have raised concern about the environmental impact of military exercises on one of the islands north of Saipan. Representatives Ray N. Yumul and Stanley T. Torres recently wrote a joint letter to the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas to express concern about the continued use of Farallon de Mendinilla as a live fire bombing range. They said they were concerned the island had lost a significant amount of land mass due to the bombing exercises.

Saipan has no DUI arrest on Christmas

For the third straight year, no one was arrested on Saipan for driving while under the influence of alcohol on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told Saipan Tribune yesterday there were no DUI arrests on Dec. 24 and 25. However, one person was arrested for DUI early yesterday morning, Ogumoro said. Ogumoro said there was a vehicular crash on Tuesday, where one person suffered minor injuries. A vehicular hit and run also happened in Chalan Piao on Tuesday. The victim suffered minor injuries, she said. "Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were generally peaceful," Ogumoro said. DPS conducted DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Dec. 24 along Beach Road Chalan Kanoa and Middle Road in Puerto Rico near the U.S. Army Reserve Center. On Dec. 25, DPS also held another DUI/sobriety checkpoints along Beach Road Chalan Laulau and Middle Road in Gualo Rai near the Commonwealth Development Authority's office.

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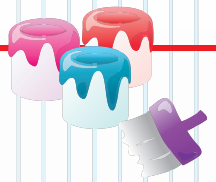
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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune

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The duck and jackass dynasty

By MICHAEL HILTZIK
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I got the gist of the “Duck Dynasty” thing after my first and only viewing: bunch of rural jackasses who somehow struck it rich get brought into our living rooms to be laughed at by the rest of us aristocrats.

Well, all right. When the archetype first appeared on television via the “Beverly Hillbillies” it was also enormously popular, but also taken as an illustration of how TV was living down to its condemnation by FCC Chairman Newton Minow as a “vast wasteland.”

In any event, A&E knew what it was doing when it put these people on the air, so its show of indignation in “suspending” one of them for speaking out against gays and the aspirations of African-Americans falls a little flat.

What's truly ghastly, however, is the reaction of a couple of political figures. Sarah Palin's opinion isn't worth the 11 words I've just written to dismiss it. But Bobby Jindal still holds down office as the governor of Louisiana. That raises the question: Has it become acceptable again for an American politician to embrace unashamed bigotry?

In the old days, news that public funds (via the Louisiana state film and television incentive program) had helped finance racism and gay-bashing of the variety espoused by Phil Robertson, the outspoken duck dynast, would have presented a moral dilemma and created a political embarrassment for a governor. Most self-respecting political leaders would have run away from association with such views; that's the essence, after all, of the “leadership” part of the equation.

Not for Jindal. His only public statement on the matter thus far has praised Robertson as a member of a family of “great citizens of the State of Louisiana.” He defends Robertson's views on the “it's a free country” principle, which as a debating point generally gets dropped by most people before the fourth grade. “Everyone is entitled to express their views,” he says.

In Jindal's seven-sentence statement, not a word of defense for gay people so crudely mocked by Robertson. Not a word to remind us that the life of black sharecroppers in Louisiana's Jim Crow era was not “godly” or “happy.”

In January of this year, Jindal lectured his fellow Republicans on the need to “stop being the stupid party.” Remember? He talked about how the Republican brand had been damaged by its candidates’ “offensive and bizarre comments.” That was supposed to be the point.

See DUCK on next page



This 2012 photo released by A&E shows, from left, Phil Robertson, Jase Robertson, Si Robertson and Willie Robertson from the A&E series, “Duck Dynasty.”



Innocents' Day

We are not going for the toddler's welfare, which is the focus of tomorrow's Innocents' Day in the Christian liturgical calendar. For biblical scholars familiar with Matthew and Luke, the first was written for the Jews and the second for the gentiles. Luke bothered to trace Jesus' lineage to the widely known martyr John the Baptist but did not provide much fanfare in not having a room at the inn; the infant child had to be born in a manger, with only shepherds and angels in attendance.

Matthew was writing to the Jews of the synagogue to prove that Jesus was a fulfillment of the prophetic messianic vision, so he was not only particular about Joseph being a descendant of King David, he also got Magi to visit and trick King Herod by skipping town without due notice. The King then proceeded to have every 2-year-old boy in Bethlehem and surrounding areas killed, ala the Mosaic tradition of Moses surviving the Pharaoh's edict of a similar genocide in the Exodus story. Not unlike the family of Joseph of old, Jesus' family also escaped to Egypt and returned only after Herod died.

I bother to point out both of these items in Luke and Matthew just so readers know that we are way beyond the literalism that usually accompanies Bible literacy in our time. The liturgical Innocents' Day had been observed for the innocent suffering in the world, mostly those of children in war, disasters, and famine.

I focus this reflection on the second group of children, those into second childhood years of which I have suddenly entered. Since formally retiring after Liaoning Province of China that owns and runs the Shenyang Aerospace University implemented its book rule on not having foreign teachers over 65 (China still retains the old life expectancy record that led to women retired at 55 and men at 60, though a revised five-year addition has just been announced since almost a fifth of the population are on superannuation), I realized how much of the stereotype associated with second childhood has already become mine.

First, there are the body symptoms like the jowl that looks like that of the turkey forgiven by the WH on Thanksgiving, and the butt that used to attract approving giggles from the school girls in the elevator when I skintight it in body fitting jeans springtime but is now virtually ignored for its non-existence! The lack of dexterity that keeps dropping things has become only too painfully familiar, and lifting one's body a foot higher on a stool invariably results in vertigo. Coming along these ways was not our idea of maturing into the soufflé of our years.

If my vaudevillian incoordination is often a source of embarrassment and discomfort, the incredible emotional tolerance for pluriformity and diversity almost lines me up with the bleeding heart liberals. I suppose the extensive travel around many rural villages (the urban centers all look alike) around the world for

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoy-panda2031@aol.com.



more than a decade, living in many places by choice, the longest of which was residing on Saipan as a religious and secular teacher, left us with enough elbow room to accommodate virtually everyone. But if the heart has a chamber big enough for the planet and then some, the memory database has become harder to access. My second point, names of persons and places, dates and events have now come to elude us!

Still, as a third, having been impacted by the cognitive overview effect provided by the earthrise photo from Apollo 8 in 1968, our intuitive acceptance of the trustworthiness of life as it is given, and the compassionate leeway we impose on every humanly invented image and metaphor, accepts no bounds.

Wikipedia states it better: The *overview effect* is a cognitive shift in awareness while viewing the Earth from orbit or from the lunar surface. It refers to the experience of seeing the reality of the Earth in space understood to be a tiny, fragile ball of life, “hanging in the void,” shielded and nourished by a paper-thin atmosphere. National boundaries vanish, the conflicts that divide people become less important, and creating a planetary society with the will to protect this “pale blue dot” becomes both obvious and imperative.

Our primary pedagogical admonition is for students to “pay attention” to their existence with their body senses, emotions, intuitions, cognitions, and decisions. I give it my naughty twist and arrogate to myself the skill of doing the same with “playing attention” to distance myself from the commercial connotation of the previous phrase.

Society's blame game, with its cause-effect linear thought pattern, lends a susceptibility of the previous generation to charges of benign neglect or senseless cases of willful commissions in the experienced woes of the Earth.

Of course, there is nothing innocent about second childhood. In fact, the universal response among the confident, aware, and self-conscious is usually, “Guilty as charged!” That is, if one still remembers the reality of what one is being charged with!

And this is where life's grace and compassion is incontrovertible. Not only does it let you know and feel that the past is irretrievably done, and in fact, mostly forgotten; it also wondrously and unconditionally forgives.

Now, if I could only remember where my last thought was...

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Orphaned files

In pilot circles the most instructive flying stories start with the phrase: “Don’t do what I did.”

Unfortunately, I don’t have any flying yarns to share today. My concerns are more earthly and less glamorous. That’s because my nose is buried in my computer as I try to get better organized. But if you’re still looking for an instructive tale, I do have one to share, so read on.

Getting ready for the new year is harder than it used to be. In days of old it just entailed weeding out files, updating the family photo album, and emptying out the ashtray in the foyer.

Outside of mistakenly throwing out a file, there wasn’t too much you could do to screw up the process. After all, a paper file is a paper file, and a photo is a photo. They can’t break, and they don’t require any technology to access.

But these days our files are electronic. And, as such, they are entirely dependent on complicated technology that is changing by the day. Like it or not, the average slob like me has to become a kitchen table digital archivist. As for the pros, they toss around ominous terms like “data rot,” “mean time between failures,” and “orphan files.”

Yikes, that’s a weighty array of worries, and today I’m going to focus on the last item, the orphan files. These are files that you can’t use because the software that reads them is no longer used.

I fell into this trap a long time ago. I bought a scanner so I could digitize my documents, publications, and photos. The scanner came with a slick program that made the process convenient.

Well, so far, so good.

But taking the slick path turned out to be a slippery slope, as my files were created, and saved, and, hence, archived, in the program’s proprietary format.

Bankruptcy refuses to die

The NMI is broke! Leadership trembles nervously as it peeps into the inevitable fiscal disaster torching the entire archipelago. Reality shows the fiscal train wreck disintegrating or is this just a figment of my imagination?

We read with the usual yawn budgetary shortfall to the tune of \$12 million for pension pay while PSS declares “no money” to pay its utility bills. Close behind are landowners threatening to close off roadways for non-payment of their land claims or pre-war properties acquired by the government a long time ago.

Add the pension obligation bond loan—basically a generational loan—where our children would shoulder paying for it over the long haul. These setbacks are woefully discouraging indications of our fiscal, therefore, economic posture. But wait, legislators are traveling to check if the skies are falling. Isn’t the NMI drowning in monsoonal rain and deluge of debts and deficit spending?

Perhaps the listless camaraderie has forced the elected elite into a corner, paralyzed by the monstrosity of “fiduciary responsibility.” Is the paralysis insurmountable? Now they’re confused which synonym to use in place of “bankruptcy”: insolvency, fiscal failure, indebtedness, overdraft, privation, ruination or destitution. Changing the adjective doesn’t change or force the disappearance of bankruptcy like morning dew. Does it?

Troubling the fiscal ruination at home that started with the deployment of the apparel industry and reckless imposition of federal immigration. But even more troubling is the lack of conscious leadership equipped with composure and dignity to guide the economy to safe port. Leadership must have been picked like dead carcass by invisible vultures heading out to sea at dawn.

Destination: Higher cost of living

As the cogs, nuts, bolts, and tire come off our wagon of what’s now perennial bankruptcy, the net effect is the vicious reduction in the purchasing power of villagers everywhere.

Furthermore, the issue of affordable energy is replete with hardship in the villages and business community. But the gang on the

I wasn’t entirely oblivious to the situation. I knew that once my archiving project was done I should convert the image files into more common, non-proprietary, formats.

But these kind of projects are never “done.” They just asymptotically approach completion since there is always (always!) just a “little more” something that needs to be messed with. It’s like trying to slice an orange in half so many times that it disappears entirely; a nice idea, but an impossible one.

And so the magic day never came where I could declare the project complete and therefore commit to spending an afternoon converting the file formats. I eventually turned my attention to other matters, and forgot all about it, hoping that the computer gods would somehow take mercy on my negligence.

But they didn’t, of course. After a few years went by I found myself having to retrieve some of my digital files. By this point the slick software I had used (it came free with the old scanner) was about as common as snowballs in Garapan. Bottom line: I couldn’t read the files I needed.

This was a rude awakening. But it came just in time for corrective action. I managed to hunt down a version of the old program, which, from the looks of things (and the price I paid) was the very last copy on the face of the planet.

Problem solved, right? Well, not so fast. Though my “orphan” files were now reunited with their dusty old “legacy” program, this program had to cooperate with a new operating system. I was almost stymied by this obstacle.

I eventually got things working. And I eventually converted my image files into more common formats, but a total data disaster was too close for comfort.

Hill is engrossed in feasibility studies to figure out what the out-moded solar energy has to offer, a source as expensive as fossil fuel-generated power generation. Eh, feasibility studies never die too! Liquefied gas? Kidding, huh?

Perhaps all should brace for the long haul in ruination and destitution. The mess has turned into the nursery rhyme “O! McDonald... and a broke, broke here; and a broke, broke there, here a broke, there a broke, everywhere a broke, broke.”

It’s a dizzying phenomenon that offers suspect respite in Eddy Arnold’s “make the world go away.” Only problem is: dawn brings the same redundancy until sunset. Or perhaps my observation is flawed in every sense. But until we could realistically slaughter bankruptcy, it would stick around and simply refuse to die! Is it still raining?

Political correctness

There’s the slippery slope of indigenous political correctness. We wake up to the morning sun blaming everybody else for the socioeconomic debasement of the CNMI. It’s the new cultural fad of the “blame game” in perpetuity.

We grandly ignore that it was leadership’s negligence that the cogs, nuts, bolts and tire have come off our wagon, now careening down Capital Hill destination: delusion, apathy and self-destruction.

From violation of labor laws to driving the retirement program into permanent insolvency and dissolution, politicians have earned their crown jewel sending the multitude into the subterranean netherworld of misery in abject poverty. Yet we blame everybody else for the mess except leadership or elected elite.

Obviously, conscious leadership has been a missing component since decades ago. There’s now the vicious and merciless vilification of foreigners we see as perceptual threat or nuisance. Didn’t you see the magma—melted molten volcanic rock—that started torching paradise since two decades ago?

I probed the issue for legitimacy. The training of the local work force is the responsibility of leadership, not CWs. Moreover, we’ve captained our canoe since 1977 electing public officials. The CWs

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A true Christmas story

At 5:30pm on Christmas Day, a thief stole my goat right in front of the old mwar mwar center on Beach Road. I heard my goat yelling for help and as I came around to check I saw a shirtless local guy running with my goat on his shoulder, desperately struggling as he carried her away. I ran back to get my bicycle to give chase but, as I got into view, he jumped into a waiting pickup truck and they dashed away. I parked my bike and just gave the incident a little thought: Do I call the police? I said no. I said to myself, maybe it is the same guy who stole my male goat a few months ago. I did not call the police either that day. It occurred to me that maybe the guy needed to feed his family

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



So, don’t do what I did. Don’t get married to a file format that might leave you crying at the altar when the big day comes.

As for image files, two formats that seem good candidates for survival are JPEG and TIFF. Just so I can sound smarter than I really am, I’ll note that JPEG stands for Joint Photographic Experts Group, and TIFF is Tagged Image File Format. No, this verbiage doesn’t really explain anything, but it beats being faced with seemingly arbitrary abbreviations.

Image files seem like easy territory compared to other files that we have to deal with, such as word processing documents and spreadsheets. Archiving that fare for long-term posterity seems like a difficult proposition. But that stuff is a topic for a different day.

The bigger topic, of course, is the fragility of digital data. That’s not just an issue for geeks, it’s an issue for everyone. For example, every so often we hear horror stories about people who have lost all their photos because of a hard drive crash or a computer virus.

So, don’t do what they did. And don’t do what I did. But do pass the ashtray, please; I’m tidying up around here and it’s the only thing I can do right.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



aren’t part of the political equation. Don’t recall exogenous interference in the political process. So where’s the legitimacy of political correctness that we need not earn our dues?

Indeed, there are issues in the relationship that need refinement. But have we actively sought revival of the 902 talks to realistically resolve matters beyond the redundant indictment of colonialism? Did we neglect “internal paternalism” as part of the equation of failure? We can spout all we want but the legal framework remains the Covenant Agreement. Must reset our buttons in 2014.

Moreover, we’ve cited Covenant Section 802 on military land requirements, ignoring the substance of Section 806 (a and b). The feds only need a request for more land requirements provided it secures congressional approval. If it secures it and we refuse to accommodate its land needs, it still could use eminent domain to confiscate land here.

The China behavior only exacerbates the urgency for the national government to move in to secure land needs, build its facilities in order to protect allied countries in the name of national security.

It’s good exercise promoting local sentiment against turning Pagan into a target range. We should point out the requirements under the agreement if only to put DOD on notice that unless it has something under its belt, everything stops. How come its planned use of Pagan fails assimilation, i.e., joint use of the island? It makes sense, given the lack of local funds for decent emplacement of requisite basic infrastructure.

DUCK

From Page 10

posed to represent the launch of a new GOP outreach to communities that had been excluded by Republican doctrine, including the gay and minority communities.

But that was 11 months ago. Now, according to Jindal, Republicans are supposed to embrace offensive and bizarre comments. The party’s transformation into a marginal and regional movement thus continues. Jindal has made himself the biggest jackass in the story, and his career as a national political figure the thing to be laughed at.

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at mhiltzik@latimes.com.

on this joyous day, so I turned around and when I got back home I did write down the license plate number but I’ll keep it for memory only. Countless victims on island experience such crimes and feel helpless that such crimes will ever be solved. All we can do this joyous day is to forgive this guy and hope that the feast he will have with his friends and family will be joyous. Merry Christmas my dear friend for I have already forgiven you. Happy holidays!

Oh, by the way, I got three goats as a gift and gave one away when I rescued some friends coming back from Goat Island in a distressed boat full of live goats during hunting season this summer.






Manuel J. Alvarez

Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. Highs near 88.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. Highs near 88.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77

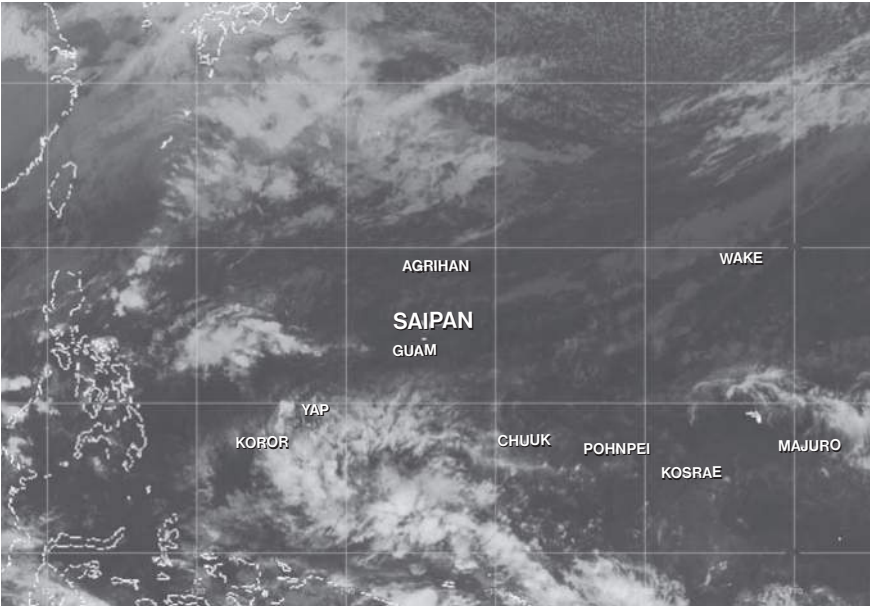
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲38 ▼15
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲59 ▼49
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲43 ▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78 ▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼52
Miami	Showers	▲80 ▼69
New York	Ice	▲40 ▼27
Osaka	Windy	▲46 ▼38
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼40
Pusan	Windy	▲43 ▼26
Rome	Rain	▲56 ▼43
Salem	Cloudy	▲43 ▼33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68 ▼44
Seoul	Sunny	▲28 ▼17
Tokyo	Showers	▲51 ▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼30

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
2:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front stretches southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 24N154E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A cold front curves southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N170E to 19N160E, then continues as a shear line between Guam and Rota to beyond 130E at 10N. Patchy clouds and rain are present up to 200 miles north of the boundary east of 146E. Clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 175 miles north of the boundary from 130E to 146E. A few thunderstorms are located along the shear line west of 140E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap to south of Chuuk, or south of a line from 7N138E to 9N141E to 3N156E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:07 AM	1:09 PM
Saturday	2:01 AM	1:56 PM
Sunday	2:59 AM	2:47 PM
Monday	3:59 AM	3:44 PM
Tuesday	5:01 AM	4:44 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 21, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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kids (6 to 11)

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High Court affirms denial of motion to withdraw guilty plea

The Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's denial of Angel J. Santos' motion to withdraw his guilty plea. Santos had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree in exchange for cooperating with police and having five other charges dismissed. Nine months after the guilty plea, Santos tried to withdraw his plea because the Commonwealth had not yet brought his co-conspirators to trial.

At issue was the standard for reviewing a motion to withdraw a plea. Santos argued courts should allow defendants to withdraw their guilty pleas before sentencing for any reason so long as it would not unreasonably harm the government's case. Harm, for example, would include the loss of key evidence after the plea

such as if an important witness subsequently died.

The Commonwealth disagreed, claiming that while courts should freely permit defendant to withdraw their guilty pleas, courts should only do so if the defendant can also provide a fair-and-just reason for withdrawing the plea.

The High Court agreed with the Commonwealth, concluding courts should freely grant motions to withdraw guilty pleas if the defendant shows a fair-and-just reason and the plea withdrawal would not unreasonably harm the government's case.

The Supreme Court then affirmed the trial court's denial of Santos' plea withdrawal because Santos had not provided a fair-and-just reason. He had simply changed his mind long after his plea. Instead, Santos

needed to show problems at the plea hearing, newly discovered

evidence, intervening circumstances, or some other reason

meriting the withdrawal. (NMI Judiciary)

Free NMC info session on Jan. 7

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free information session on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014, for individuals who are interested in furthering their education or advancing their professional careers.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and interested members of the community, will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

College faculty, staff, and students from different degree programs and other educational programs at NMC, as well as Student Services rep-

resentatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

The college will also be accepting admissions application for the spring 2014 semester at the information session. The deadline for submitting applications was originally on Dec. 20, but the college is making an exception for those who attend and submit their application at the info session.

Those who attend the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived

for NMC's upcoming spring 2014 semester. This represents a savings of about \$75.

NMC offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

2 fired Guam prison guards deny using stun guns

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Two former Guam prison guards are denying using stun guns on inmates.

Matthew Gill and Michael Martinez are appealing after they were fired over the stun gun allegations, *Pacific Daily News* reported. Prison guards are not trained to use stun guns and are prohibited from carrying them.

In October, an inmate's parent reported to Guam police that officers assaulted inmates with Tasers. Four inmates received treatment for injuries believed to have been from Tasers. The Department of Corrections announced last week that the guards were fired.

"I did not Taser any inmates, as stated in my final notice of adverse action," Gill said in his appeal.

According to department documents, inmates described the Taser use as "torture."

Inmate Kevin Roberts wrote in documents that Martinez asked to use the Taser on him but Roberts refused. Roberts claims Gill held him while Martinez shocked him twice in the upper arm, until "there was a stench of burning flesh and clothing."

Another inmate, Dominick Felders, wrote, "I did not agree to being tortured in any way; nor did I agree to being humiliated and subjected to pain."

According to interview transcripts, Martinez denied using a Taser on inmates. He said the inmates might have made the allegations "because I'm strict with them."

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Pacifica president Norman Tenorio and board of director Pete "Sonny" Ada receive the official Congressional Floor Statement from Congressman Kilili Sablan.

PACIFICA INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS, INC.

40 years of proven experience and reliability

Industry pioneer Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. turned 40 this month and it is already looking forward to another 40 years of serving the coverage and insurance needs of the Commonwealth.

Pacifica Insurance executive

vice president and general manager Shirley Tudela-Sablan said the company's plan for the next 40 years is to continue its mission to provide quality service, speedy claims, and policies backed by solid carriers.

"In our company, our custom-

Continued on Next Page



Pacifica's 40th anniversary event emcee and attorney Vince Seman cracked a few jokes and told stories during the event to keep audience entertained.



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Pacifica Insurance
Underwriters, Inc.

Bank of Guam® offers its best wishes to **PACIFICA INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS, INC.** on their **40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.**

Congratulations for all of the hard work that has brought you to this most auspicious business milestone. We applaud your continuing efforts to provide quality insurance products and services to everyone who make our Island their home. We wish you continued success in the years to come.

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From left, Joeten Enterprises, Inc. president Annie Sablan joins Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited president Hiroyuki Endo, TMPI chief marketing officer Yuki Hamajima, and Pacifica EVP/GM Shirley Sablan.



Pacifica board of director Alex Screen, far right, is joined by J.E.T. Holdings Juan "Santiago" Tenorio, far left, Kyle Cabrese, and Joeten Enterprises, Inc. board member Patricia Palacios. Palacios is also the wife of the late and former Pacifica president, Roman Sablan Palacios.



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Anniversary!

From the management and staff of

JOETEN ENTERPRISES, INC.



From Page 15

ers' voice is core and that goal will never change. Their voice is what drives our mission and our need to continually improve so as to satisfy their needs. We will also continue to partner with local charitable organizations to ensure that we share our success with the community by way of giving back. We only ask that you help us help you. Thank you for allowing us another 40 years."

Pacifica Insurance president Norman Tenorio thanked the Commonwealth community for its continued trust in the industry pioneer.

"We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve the people of the Commonwealth in the last 40 years. This would not have been possible without the support of our customers. I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone who, at

one way or another, contributed to our success. We stand committed for another 40 years and more. I ask the CNMI to please continue to rest assured with Pacifica Insurance."

Secrets for success

Sablan said that one secret of Pacifica Insurance's success is partnering with various insurance carriers that are recognized for their distinct financial standing.

Some of the notable partners of Pacifica Insurance include Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited, Pacific Guardian Life, Select Care, Century Insurance Co., and Take Care. Most recently, the company was appointed general agent by Aetna International/Aetna Life Insurance Co.

"These carriers allow us to provide the necessary coverage and policies to safeguard one's

Continued on Page 18



Gov. Eloy Inos is all smiles with Joeten Enterprises, Inc. president and Pacifica board director Annie Sablan, far left, and Nanbo Insurance Guam board member Hanako Kuribayashi.



Joeten Motors general manager Matt Deets and partner pose for the camera.



Former lieutenant governor Jesus Sablan (Pepero), far right, poses with Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Lilian Tenorio.



Transcends LLC president Joe Guerrero, right, and wife Eleanor Cabrera also joined in on the festivities. The couple's local company, handbags, etc., is a partnering company under Pacifica's loyalty discount program, Pacifica Loyalty.



From left, Saipan Stevedore general manager Mike Demapan, along with Joeten Market's JJ Tenorio and Craig Tenorio, stayed at the event from beginning to the end.



Pacifica board of director Pete "Sonny" Ada was all smiles after receiving a copy of Congressman Gregorio Killili Sablan's Congressional Floor Statement recognizing Pacifica's accomplishments and contributions to the Commonwealth.




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Pacifica president Norman Tenorio, far right, is joined by Ray Mafnas, far left, and Joeten family business associate Dan Brink, center.

From Page 16

investment. A policy is also more meaningful when there's proven financial capability. From a property- and casualty-only insurance agency since opening our doors in 1973, Pacifica Insurance has grown to also provide bonding and coverage for term and whole life, health vision, and dental," said Sablan.

Aside from being backed by financially sound and highly rated carriers, Pacific Insurance

is also on top of its industry because of five other factors that Sablan enumerated.

"First, we offer additional benefits to our policies, which include roadside assistance and loyalty program benefits. These two are promoted as Pacifica Road Aid and Pacifica Loyalty. Second, we have consistent annual loyalty event promotions, such as our previous campaigns of shopping spree and free car service giveaways. Third, we have friendly and personal service.

Fourth, we are proud of our speedy claim services. And last but not the least, we have 40 years of proven experience and reliability."

Beginnings

Pacific Insurance was founded in 1973 with the assistance of the late Joe Screen and Tatsuru Ariizumi, the late Jose Camacho Tenorio, better known as Joeten, along with his wife, Soledad Takai Tenorio.

The new insurance agency

Continued on Next Page



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Congratulations
to Pacifica Insurance Underwriters
on your 40th anniversary.

We appreciate your success as our general agent in CNMI throughout the years. We are extremely confident of our solid business partnership and look forward to many more years together.

From the staff and management of

Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited
P.O. Box 326367 Hagatna, Guam 96932

**TOKIO MARINE
PACIFIC**





Pacifica underwriter Janel Pangelinan is shown lighting up the candles on the Pacifica 40th anniversary cake.

From Page 18

did not look too far for a preferred partner in this venture, as partners and friends, who were also shareholders of Nanbo Insurance Guam, were already writing risks in Guam through a reputable insurer, The Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company Limited, a few years before considering the establishment of a general insurance agency on Saipan in 1973, or what is now known as Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

The founders and shareholders of Pacifica Insurance were composed of Jose Tenorio (Joeten), his wife and six children (Annie, Clarence, Norman, Frances, Patricia and Priscilla); Joe Screen, Tatsuru Ariizumi; the Kuribayashi family through their private corporation in Japan, Nanyo Boeki Kaisha; Edward Terlaje, Jesus Sablan, and Roman Palacios.

Fast forward

Last Dec. 13, Pacifica Insurance celebrated its ruby anniversary with a 40th anniversary party at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The guests of the event included family members of founders, business associates, Commonwealth leaders, staff members, and their families.

Sablan said the 40th anniversary celebration was not an end all for the celebrations, as Pacifica Insurance will be launching a marketing campaign in January 2014.

"We will not disclose our campaign plans until I finalize a few things, but it will be a marketing campaign that will run throughout year 2014 and will be one that our customers would be happy about. But, basically, to be a part of our 40th year celebration promotion, you would need to hold a policy of any sort at Pacifica Insurance."

Congratulations
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On your **40th** Anniversary!

Cheers to your 40 years of excellent service!
 We wish you the best.



From the management and staff of



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Cheers to your 40 years of excellent service!

From the management and staff of



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From left, Joeten Market's Craig Tenorio, JJ Tenorio with partner CJ Cepeda, Saipan Stevedore general manager Mike Demapan, and the eldest son of Clarence Tenorio, Larry Cabrera and his wife.



EVP/GM Shirley Sablan looks on as award principal and broker recipients accept their partnership awards.



Pacifica broker Ecosure Insurance president Ruel Villacrusis, second left, accepted a partnership award from board of directors, from left to right, John Terlaje, Alex Screen, Sonny Ada, and Yukio Kuribayashi.



Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited president Hiroyuki Endo gave the history behind how Tokio Marine first started its relationship with Pacifica 40 years back in 1973.



Century Insurance Group president George Chiu, far right, accepts a partnership award from members of the Pacifica board. Also in the photo is Tan Holdings executive Dave Sablan, far left.



Pacifica president Norman Tenorio welcomes event guests to Pacifica's 40th year anniversary.



Pacifica board of directors Annie Sablan, far left, and Ed Terlaje, second left, pose with Pacifica EVP/GM Shirley Sablan, board member John Terlaje, and Pacifica claims adjuster Jose Tenorio.



Joeten Ace Hardware president Priscilla Tenorio-Guzman poses for the camera.



Pacifica's 40th celebration event drew over 200 guests.



Staff and some members of the board of Pacifica blow out 40 candles on the company's birthday cake.



From left, August Health, LLC president Joe Santos, former House speaker Oscar Babauta, former lieutenant governor Jesus Sablan, and KKMP's radio personality Gary Sword.



Joeten's Darlene Macaranas, far right, is joined by Keli Tenorio, second right, Docomo's Pauline Scragg, fourth right, and two event guests.



Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan says a few words about Pacifica before presenting the Congressional Floor Statement on behalf of his office.



Tan Holdings executive Dave Sablan was called to the stage to say a few words. He focused his speech on telling the story of how he first met the late Jose C. Tenorio (Joeten) back in the 1950's where he sold a car to the late local business magnate.



Century Insurance Group president George Chiu focuses his congratulatory remarks on continued partnership and success and well wishes to Pacifica.



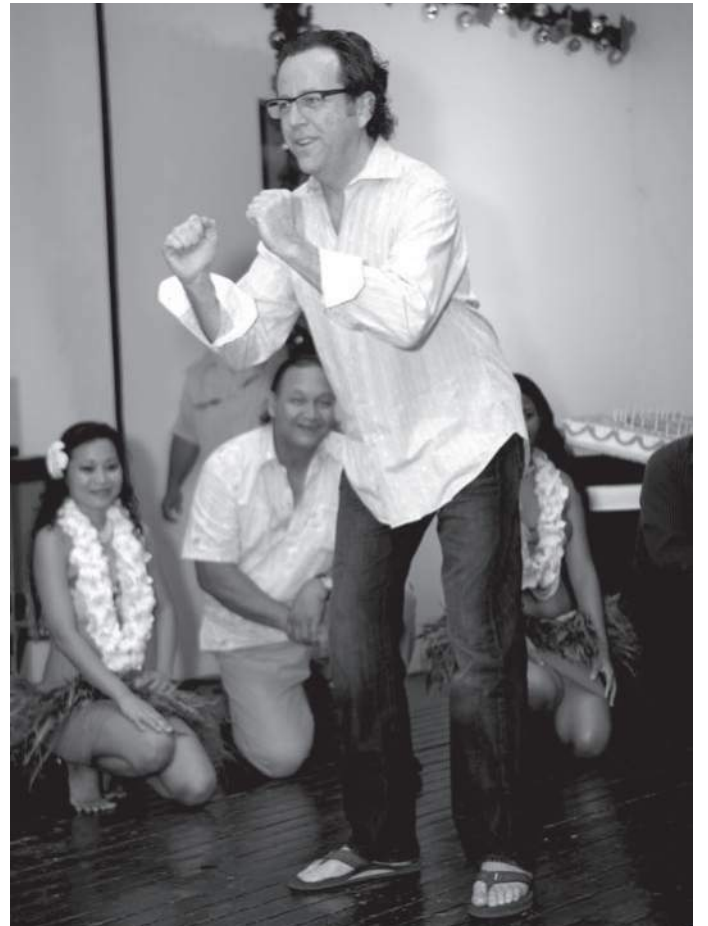
Pacifica board of director Yukio Kuribayashi, left, was overjoyed after winning the dance competition as Nanbo Insurance chief accountant Chito Tangunan, right, smiles.



Joeten Enterprises, Inc.'s board member Clarence Tenorio shares a moment with Hafa Adai Deli manager Emi Okazaki.



Rep. Richard Seman and wife cheers to Pacifica's 40 years of success.



Wisconsin-based company Alliance Federated Energy president Ben Vankorn shows his moves during a dance competition.



A female dancer smiles as she dances a Tahitian number.



An Ali'i group male performer blows on a large conch shell.



40th ANNIVERSARY 1973-2013



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**Congratulations on your
40th Anniversary!**

Greetings from

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Guam National Guard soldiers leave Afghanistan

All remaining Task Force Guam soldiers have departed theatre en route to a staging area where they will await transportation to Camp Shelby, MS, to begin their demobilization process.

All remaining soldiers, assigned to the 1-294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, have safely departed Afghanistan and are expected to arrive in Camp Shelby, MS, on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

The battalion's close to 600

soldiers deployed to Afghanistan early this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

There are still 31 airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron and four soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard's 1990th Contingency Contracting Team deployed during this holiday season in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (PR)



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Sgt. Josephine Taitingfong, left, of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, leads other Task Force Guam soldiers to a CH-47 Chinook carrying duffel bags on Dec. 25 at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan. The Guam soldiers conclude Operation Enduring Freedom and are en route home after serving nine months in country.



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Members of the Guam Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, load equipment and duffel bags onto a CH-47 Chinook on Dec. 25 as they commence movement out of Afghanistan.



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Spc. Doris Parr of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, smiles before boarding a helicopter flight to North Kaia, Kabul, Afghanistan, on Dec. 25. Parr is one of Task Force Guam's last group of soldiers departing the country after Guam officially ended its Operation Enduring Freedom mission on Dec. 26.



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Members of the Guam Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, load equipment onto a CH-47 Chinook Dec. 25 as they commence movement out of Afghanistan.

2014

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-006

CHALAN KIYA-KANAT TABLA WATERLINE CONNECTION
(W12-022)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope-of-work consists of installation of new six (6) inch ductile iron distribution main connecting the Kanat Tabla booster pump through the existing Chalan Kiya water distribution main line. It also includes replacement and installation of various new valves, and water service lateral connections at designated areas within the Chalan Kiya Village.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Tender Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable); at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on December 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-14-006, Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection, Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christi Lazaro, Engineer, CUC Water-Wastewater Division via email christi.lazaro@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Support Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Patrick McCafferty, second from left, accepts more than 120 pairs of new and used boots from Task Force Guam on Dec. 25 as 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard donated footwear to an Afghan security company headed by McCafferty. Others in photo are Staff Sgt. Erico Santos; McCafferty; Spc. James Esperon; Sgt. 1st Class Frank J. Limtiaco and Command Sgt. Maj. Mel Hennegan, Task Force Guam command sergeant major, at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Task Force Guam donates boots to Afghanistan security guards

By SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA
GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan—Task Force Guam let its feet do the talking in its last act of goodwill before departing Afghanistan.

Members of 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard donated more than 120 pairs of boots to an Afghan security organization that serves a significant purpose in Kabul, according to Patrick McCafferty, a retired Canadian military warrant officer who mentors close to 250 Afghanistan Public Protection Force employees. The Guam soldiers are slowly tricking out of Afghanistan as their Operation Enduring Freedom commitment rapidly ends, but made time for one final mission to the Afghan community.

McCafferty began *Operation Walking Tall* last year, a program meant to outfit APPF guards with sufficient footwear. Task Force Guam obliged this program with its donation, the largest amount McCafferty received since the program’s birth.

“I cannot begin to tell you how important this is. It means a lot to the guards and to the people of Afghanistan,” McCafferty said. “I am flabbergasted and very appreciative of the Guam soldiers helping out. The simple act of donating used boots will do more for building relations at the grass roots level (soldier to soldier). I cannot thank Guam enough for your generosity and your regiment will have a profound positive effect with my guard force.”

Weeks ago, Task Force Guam commander Lt. Col. Michael Tougher influenced all of Guam’s multiple units serving Operation Enduring Freedom to donate used or unused boots to this cause. Guam troops oc-

cupy all six International Security Assistance Force regional commands and coincidently are prepping to depart Afghanistan. Every unit responded, making considerable donations.

“It worked out well for everyone. Soldiers have boots they want to get rid of because you cannot use them anywhere else but in Afghanistan, and we’re about to go home,” Tougher said. “Rather than discard them, we’ll give them to a good cause. The security company needs them and we’re happy to help.”

“When the APPF guards receive a pair of boots that are good quality, they feel more professional and greatly appreciate the feeling that some of us care for them. It helps builds bridges between our cultures,” McCafferty added. “The quality of uniforms and boots that are issued to the APPF by the Ministry of the Interior are inferior. They’re very low quality, with boot heels glued together. They’ll fall apart within a month.”

McCafferty is site security manager for a private firm but also conducts personal security and risk management consultation. He’s a key asset to APPF as he trains, mentors, feeds, and outfits all security guards as best he can.

“I deal with the lives of these guys and that includes their health and welfare,” McCafferty said.

Guam’s benevolence stems from an early December incident where a local security guard was accidentally killed. With Guam forces present, the incident closely escalated into something more serious. McCafferty greatly assisted calming things, saving what could have been a major international conflict.

“It’s obviously sad someone was killed that day, especially the way it happened. There was

a lot of emotion, a lot of tension from both sides,” he said. “Everyone now understands it was an unfortunate accident. Your regiment helped put this behind us with your donations of boots. This speaks a lot about the Guam unit.”

Tougher expressed condolences for the security guard’s death.

“This is our gesture for their loss. We’re saddened it happened,” Tougher said.

Guam’s donation came in time for McCafferty to issue them as Christmas gifts, he said.

“Believe me, they’ll all be very happy to see this,” he explained. “Some of them have never received a gift as simple as a pair of shoes. Again, my tremendous thanks to the Guam soldiers for making this a special Christmas to these Afghan people.”

McCafferty, of Petawawa, Ontario, Canada, reached out to various American and Canadian forces for boot support and has gotten few responses. He personally paid to ship almost two dozen boots to Afghanistan from his homeland. He hoped to get enough boots to distribute to his security guards as Christmas gifts.

“These are truly special especially when they know they’re coming from American forces,” McCafferty said. “Americans and Canadians, we’re generous people. The Afghans believe that.”

Anyone willing to step forward and help can email McCafferty at: mccafferty.patrick@scimitar.af

Task Force Guam’s remaining troops will leave Afghanistan shortly after Christmas Day. Majority of its nearly 600 soldiers have already left the country and en route to Camp Shelby, Miss. for redeployment processing.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Request for Proposals
RFP-14-GOV-043
GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE
FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of sealed proposals from qualified insurance companies and firms to provide group life insurance coverage in accordance with the scope of benefits identified in the Request for Proposals. The Request for Proposals will be available after December 5, 2013 from the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill Saipan, MP 96950 (670) 664-8080.

Proposals will be evaluated based on four criteria: (1) experience of firm in the provision of group life insurance (25%); (2) financial capacity of firm and its reinsurance partners (25%); (3) proposed coverage (25%); and (4) costs (25%). The Commonwealth is seeking a firm with significant experience in the provision of group life insurance coverage with financial background to provide adequate assurances of coverage capacity and low cost for the requested benefits. These three evaluation factors are summarized in the table below.

Evaluation Factor	
Experience	25%
Financial Capacity	25%
Proposed coverage	25%
Costs	25%

Proposals must be submitted by January 18, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any nonmaterial imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Capt. Joey C. San Nicolas, left, commander, Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, and Master Sgt. Duane Perez, first sergeant, furl their unit colors, signifying Echo's end to Operation Enduring Freedom on Dec. 23 at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan. Holding the guidon is Spc. Joe Mantanona. The remaining Echo soldiers stand in formation in the background.

Guam guidons furled

By SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA
GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan—All across Afghanistan, Task Force Guam's remaining troops are completing the last stages of Operation Enduring Freedom and closing on officially ending their historic mission.

Echo Company and Headquarters-Headquarters Company ceremoniously furled their unit guidons on Dec. 23, signifying they've completed their Afghanistan responsibilities and can now concentrate on redeploying. Likewise, Charlie Company at Camp Eggers and Foxtro Company at Kandahar Airfield were slated to end unit missions yesterday as well.

As a whole, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard will case its colors after Christmas Day, concluding OEF and officially handing responsibilities to 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army. The 508th has already assumed missions and, technically, occupied just about all office space Guam soldiers utilized the past nine months.

"Today was significant and very important. This basically closes our mission," said Echo commander Capt. Joey C. San Nicolas. "This brings an end to



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

First Sgt. John T. Johnson, left, and Capt. Eugene Guerrero, leaders of Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, furl their unit guidon on Dec. 23 at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan, signifying their unit's completion of Operation Enduring Freedom.

our service in Afghanistan, in defense of our freedom."

Alpha Company at Camp Spann is scheduled to transfer its authority today. Delta Company already transferred responsibilities to its replacements and is already out of Camp Stone, its home since arriving in Afghanistan in April.

Close to two dozen HHC soldiers stood in formation as Capt. Gene Guerrero, HHC commander, and 1st Sgt. John T. Johnson, first sergeant, rolled their unit guidon to close their OEF duty.

"It's closure for our company from the missions we've been doing the past eight and a half months," added Capt. Eugene Guerrero, HHC commander. "This lets the soldiers know we

did a good job. Our mission was accomplished, that's the significance of casing our colors."

"This was very important to us because Echo Company alone was built specifically for this mission," added San Nicolas. "It's good to acknowledge the more than 1,700 missions we successfully completed, and at the same time acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice that our fallen heroes had paid in service to Echo, the battalion and our island."

Majority of Task Force Guam soldiers have already departed Afghanistan and are en route to Camp Shelby, Miss. for redeployment processing. Guam troops still in Afghanistan will leave the country in less than a week.



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

First Sgt. John T. Johnson, right, first sergeant of Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, cases his unit colors as HHC closed out its Operation Enduring Freedom responsibilities on Dec. 23 at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan. Capt. Eugene Guerrero, left, HHC commander, holds the guidon steady.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID ITB14-GOV-040

Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project Alternatives 2, 3 & 4

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project Alternatives 2, 3 & 4 – Garapan, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work will involve removal of existing roadway, utilities, sidewalks, driveways, and miscellaneous structures and landscaping and the installation of a new drainage/infiltration system beneath the roadway, new curb and gutter, new driveways, new sidewalks, new roadway, new landscaping, and the construction of a new bioswale system.

The project package will be available Friday, December 20, 2013 at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 2:00PM ChST at the Governor's Conference Room, ground floor of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST January 8, 2014 to Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions will be copied to other prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB14-GOV-040, Construction of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project Alternatives 2, 3 & 4". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST January 21, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 21, 2014 and must be received no later than January 29, 2014 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST January 29, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 AM ChST January 21, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

- Acceptable assets are only:
- 1) Cash
 - 2) US Government Securities
 - 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
 - 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
 - 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Three Hundred (300) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by Three Hundred (300) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID ITB14-GOV-044

Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan MP

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Repairs/Replacement of Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on December 23, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project at the project site on December 30, 2013, 10:00 a.m. ChST, at the Telemetry Room, CHC. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 06, 2014 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, Project Manager for the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Fax Number (670) 664-2408 or email: balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com Response to questions will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB14-GOV-044, Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:30 AM ChST Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:30 AM ChST January 21, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 21, 2014 and must be received no later than January 29, 2014 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:00 AM ChST January 30, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 AM ChST January 21, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:


- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

- Acceptable assets are only:
- 1) Cash
 - 2) US Government Securities
 - 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
 - 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
 - 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Three Hundred (300) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by Three Hundred (300) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.


All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014**

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)** is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,109,520.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$753,815.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,400.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$46,306.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2014.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 30, 2013.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **Friday, March 21, 2014, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 21, 2014, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 12, 2014, 5:00 p.m. & February 26, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

McDonald's honors best employees



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, McDonald's Saipan president/owner Jose C. Ayuyu and store general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu pose with 2013 Employees of the Quarter from the Middle Road store: John Joseph Tudela, Reynaldo "Hapi" Gabriel, Vanessa Hamoy, and Charmaine Anelyn Leavitt.




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Store general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu and McDonald's Saipan president/owner Jose C. Ayuyu flank Gerald Bautista, who was honored with the Employee of the Year award. Bautista works at the Garapan branch of the restaurant chain.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


McDonald's Saipan president/owner Jose C. Ayuyu, leftmost; store manager Jocelyn Asistores, second from left, and store general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu, rightmost, pose with the 2013 Employees of the Quarter from the Garapan store: Joana Dela Cruz, Veleninah Igisaiar, Gerald Bautista, Gerald Bautista, and Timothy Jack De Leon Guerrero.



UNITED STATES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on Monday, December 30, 2013, from 9:30am – 1:30pm at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club - Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – September 26, 2013
- V. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Approval of Renewal of MOA between CDD and CAMI
 - b. Approval of Proposed FY 2014 Budget of Commonwealth Respite Services Program (CRSP)
 - c. Approval of Proposed FY 2014 Budget for DD Basic Grant – partial award
 - d. Approval of Proposed FY 2014 Budget for AT Program Grant – partial award
- VI. REPORT
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Executive Director
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. VOAD Conference
 - b. NDEAM Activities
 - c. Commonwealth Respite Services Program (CRSP) Rules and Regulations Update
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. AD Hoc Committee Update
 - b. CNMI Job Fair
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- X. MISCELLANEOUS
- XI. NEXT MEETING
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

EVMF donates new lavatories to *man'amko*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation volunteers and Aging Office staff pose with the donated toilets.

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation donated new lavatories, included four toilets and a urinal, to the Aging Center on Christmas eve, Dec. 24. The donation

'PP1 supplies most of Saipan's power load'

Customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. rely heavily on Power Plant 1 for almost all of their power needs, based on the recently released "Renewable Energy Integration Study" commissioned by CUC.

CUC operates three power plants, all of which are oil-fueled diesel engines. Power Plant 1 has seven engines varying from 7,000 kW to 12,000 kW—all supplying power at 13.8 kV.

Power Plant 2, meantime, has five 2,500 kW units supplying power at 2,400 kV. This power plant is being overhauled and is available.

Power Plant 4 has units ranging from 900 kW to 2,600 kW units supplying power at 2400 kV. Total capacity is 101,000 kW. This power plant is on standby in case more than one large unit at Power Plant 1 is offline.

According to the study, all load is normally supplied by Power Plant 1 using two small units and three large units, while a fourth large unit serves as a standby.

CUC power is distributed via eight 13.8 kV feeders. Feeders 1, 2, K-4, and K-2 serve the densest load areas along the western coast. Feeder K-1 serves the airport and surrounding developed areas.

The study bared that CUC's peak load in 2012 was 35,000 kW, with a minimum load of 24,000 kW and an average load factor below 0.71. (Moneth G. Deposa)

will finally allow the CNMI Office on Aging to renovate the center's restrooms.

The donation came from the proceeds of the recently held 2013 Saipan Next Top Chef Competition.

"When we held our annual fundraising event, we were very fortunate to have the support of the business community, such as Delta Air Lines, Joeten Enterprises, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. We are also grateful to Island Bath & Ceramics for donating part of the restroom equipment to the Aging Center," said ministry founder Rose Smith.

In all, the chef competition was able to raise \$5,200 through the sale of tickets, cash donations, and gifts and in-kind donations, Smith said.

"The proceeds from the event went to our abroad programs for children support of education and here on Saipan, we chose to help the elderly by providing

toilet bowls and urinals, which the government do not have funding for," she added.

Office on Aging director Walter Manglona expressed his appreciation to Smith and the EVMF volunteers and business sponsors. "We really were not expecting this and I am sure the *man'amko* are going to also appreciate the help from this organization, the EVMF."

The winner of that 2013 Saipan Next Top Chef Competition, Rhea Backe, was also at the presentation.

Backe said that she was happy to be a part of the event that raised funds for the community's elderly. "It is important that we take good care of the island's elderly citizens," Backe, a homemaker with 15 years of cooking experience, won the local cooking competition held on Nov. 30 at PIC Saipan.

Also present during Tuesday's simple turnover ceremony at the Aging Center were Island

Bath & Ceramics owner Ivan Ilmov, Delta Air Lines representative Christopher Concepcion, and PIC Saipan representative

Vicky Benavente.

Empty Vessel is a 501(c)(3) charity and all donations are tax deductible. Visit the Empty Ves-

sel Ministry Foundation on its Facebook page, or the website at www.emptyvesselministry.org. (Mark Rabago)

In Celebration of His New Life

†Joaquin Rufag Sablan

September 20, 1939 – December 19, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: †Francisca Rogopes Sablan
Son: †Marvin R. Sablan
Parents: †Maria Malus Rufag & †Sylvestre Torres Sablan
Maternal Grandparents: †Fernando Rufag & †Maria Pierre Malus
Paternal Grandparents: †Joaquin San Nicolas Sablan & †Geronima Salas Torres
Parents In-Law: †Patricia Itibus Laniyo & †Jose Saralu Rogopes
Sisters & Brothers: †Jesus, †Ramon, †Fernando R. Sablan & †Consolacion S. Rasiang
Brother In-Law/Sister In-Law: †Sylvestre Rasiang & †Marietta Quimbao Laniyo

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Yuefang Xing Sablan
Children: Elaine Marie Camacho (Azgar Chokider), Travis John Joaquin Jr. (Ana R. Hofschneider), Francine Marie (Joseph Naputi), John Joseph, Jocine Calyn Sylvestre (Ana Maria Limes) Marlene, Delvin James, Shyanne & Shantelle Ada

Brothers & Spouse:

Vicente Rufag Sablan & Frances
 Manuel Rufag Sablan & Julie D

Sister In-Law & Brother In-Law:

Ramona Rogopes Innocente & Simeon
 Jesus Manuel L. Laniyo

He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces/nephews and god children

Daily mass of intention and rosary offered at San Jose Church. On December 24, Tuesday, rosary is 12pm. On December 25, mass offer for 9am and rosary 7:30pm. On December 26, mass is 6am and rosary 7:30pm.

On Friday, December 27th, our beloved Father, Joaquin, will be escorted from Commonwealth Health Center Chapel at 7:30am to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for last respect. Responso and viewing will begin at 8am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11am followed immediately by the Interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

Thank You - Ghillsow - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

†MANUEL CABRERA SABLAN

Cordially invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of the passage unto eternal life of our beloved one.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at San Antonio Church Beginning...

Sunday, Dec. 22, (9:00 a.m.)
Monday, Dec. 23, (6:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, Dec. 24, (6:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, Dec. 25, (8:00 a.m.)
Thursday, Dec. 26, (6:00 p.m.)
Friday, Dec. 27, (6:00 p.m.)
Saturday, Dec. 28, (6:00 p.m.)
Sunday, Dec. 29, (9:00 a.m.)

On the final day, **Monday, Dec. 30**, the Anniversary Eucharistic Celebration will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Antonio Parish. Your prayers, thoughts and presence are greatly appreciated.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you, Si Yu'us Maase'

Mrs. Consolacion C. Sablan, Children & Family



Fiesta Resort hosts Employees Appreciation Party

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan celebrated its Employees Appreciation Party on Dec. 17, 2013, at the Hibiscus Hall. It was attended by over 150 staff and guests.

Fiesta GM Abner Acosta thanked Fiesta employees for their support, dedication, and loyalty to the resort and acknowledged that without the unwavering support of its employees, Fiesta would not be as successful as it is today. He asked employees to continue to work hard and unite to strive for another successful year.

A slideshow of the accomplishments for the year 2013

was presented that evening, highlighting the renovation work at Fiesta, not only for the comfort and enjoyment of guests but also at the resort's department offices, creating a more efficient and professional atmosphere for the staff.

The highlight of the party was honoring the top achievers of 2013, as well as the loyalty awards for those with five years, 10 years, and 20 years of service with Tan Holdings.

There were also raffle drawings throughout the evening. The staff took home great prizes from generous donors. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Executives, supervisors, and employees have a group photo taken after the Employees Appreciation Party on Dec. 17, 2013, at the Hibiscus Hall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of Lose Big, Win Big have their picture taken. Mauro Sabate Jr. lost 42.5 lbs, followed by Rudy Trinidad and Dionisio Sanchez Jr. Eight of the final 14 winners were from Fiesta Resort. Each of the winners was awarded gift prizes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Housekeeping Department's "Fiesta Got Talent" performers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Employees of the Year were recognized as part of Fiesta's Annual Achievers Award Program. Each received a certificate of recognition and gifts. The honorees are Mary Jane Maliwanag from Purchasing Dept.; Melvin Masga from the Maintenance Dept.; Maria Luisa Santiago from Food & Beverage Dept.; Rudy Trinidad from Food & Beverage Dept.; Jeffrey Cruz from Food & Beverage Dept.; and Dionisio Sanchez Jr. from Maintenance Dept.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Volunteers of the Year received certificates of recognition and gifts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Housekeeping Department's "Fiesta Got Talent" performers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Employees Appreciation Party on Dec. 17, 2013, was attended by over 150 staff and guests.

REGAL CINEMAS
Bargain Shows (I) ★ Pass/Discount Restrictions Apply
REFILLABLE POPCORN BUCKET \$3.99 REFILLS ALL YEAR LONG!
SAIPAN MEGAPLEX 7
Near Joeten Superstore in San Jose MP
1-800-FANDANGO 1484#
Call Theatre For Showtimes

Suspected trafficking causes concern in quiet cul-de-sac

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I live in a fairly well-to-do neighborhood on a cul-de-sac. There has been an increase in the traffic on my street, and I suspect it's because a neighbor's adult son has been selling drugs. Most of the cars are driven by young people who park for five to 10 minutes at the most, and all of them walk around to the back of the house. Hypodermic needles have been found in the street.

Should I talk to the police and risk alienating my neighbors, or should I keep quiet because I have no definite proof? I don't think the parents would believe me if I told them; they seem to think their child can do no wrong. Also, if I do file a police report and they find out, I'm afraid they will retaliate. Help!

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO

DEAR NOT SURE: Don't keep quiet. It's important that the police be notified before the problem becomes worse. Call your local anonymous tip line and report where you have seen the suspicious activity and the needles. No personal information from you will be asked, and your privacy will be protected.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had some time to think over the summer, and came to the realization that a baby my girl-

friend had almost 30 years ago may be my daughter. "Sally" and I had a very intense, but short-lived relationship that blew up. About a year later we met again for lunch at the behest of a mutual friend.

I don't remember the details, but I do remember searching for an accurate way to compliment her. Because she had put on weight, the best I could come up with was "you look good." She didn't hit me, but the conversation went downhill from there. Sally mentioned as we were parting that she had given birth to a daughter. I haven't heard from her since.

I don't want to create problems for anybody, but I'm curious. I'm happily married and plan to stay that way. At the same time, I'd welcome having a daughter.

I have thought about sending cheek swabs and a check-off DNA test to the child along with a note suggesting she send our samples in for testing. But that could destroy whatever story she may have grown up with.

I'm at a loss here. I could use some advice from an outside authority. What do you think I should do?

BLOCKHEAD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR B.H.: It's been 30 years. The "child" is a woman now. Before you risk starting WWII,



Dear Abby

why not contact the mother and ask if you are her daughter's father, because it's possible that you AREN'T.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 20 years old and have never dated anyone. I have a lot of friends and do well in school and at work, and I try to be a good, kind, friendly person.

What can I do to make myself datable? Am I missing some crucial step in how to become a girlfriend?

OLD MAID IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR OLD MAID: Because I have never met you in person, I can't tell you what you might be doing that relegates you to the "only as a friend" category. However, some of your guy friends might be able to tell you. And you should also solicit some tips from your girlfriends.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

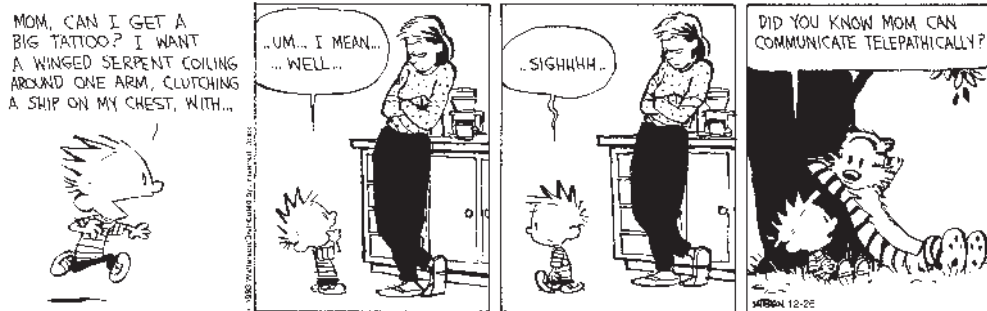
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

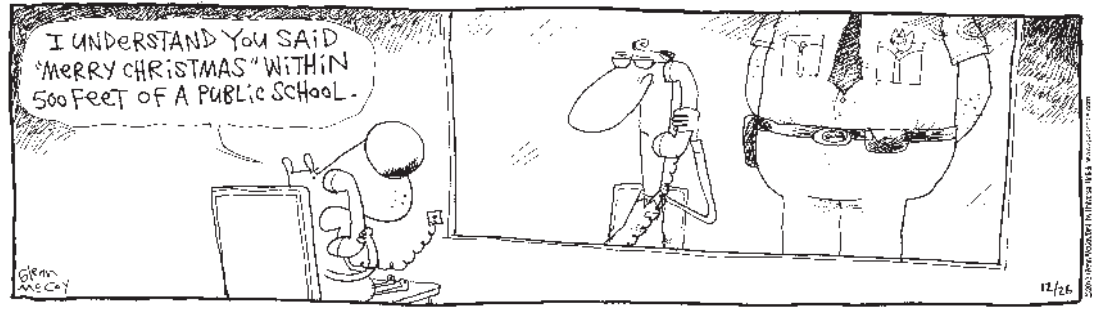


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ice-cream flavor, for short

5 TV overseer

8 Competed

12 Bay

13 Old card game

14 Therefore

15 Sandwich cookie

16 Third-party abbr.

17 Takeout request

18 Remove a cork

20 Unnamed one

22 Pinafore letters

23 "Of course"

24 Church area

27 Engrave

32 Floral neckpiece

33 "How — love thee ..."

34 Use a spade

DOWN

35 In a contiguous line

38 Block name

39 A billion years

40 Green org.

42 Vampire's bed

45 Like some lines

49 Ottoman title

50 Sub-machine gun

52 Birthright

53 Channel marker

54 "— the season ..."

55 Back talk

56 Stitches

57 "Yecchi!"

58 "Star —"

21 Big Apple letters

24 Hearty quaff

25 Corral

26 Carnival attraction

28 French refusal

29 Coleslaw or apple-sauce

30 Huge

31 Id counterpart

36 Sweet Hungarian wines

37 Inseparable

38 Updated news

41 A river or a Teletubby

42 Urban fleet

43 Malaria symptom

44 Fonteyn frill

46 Despot

47 Facility

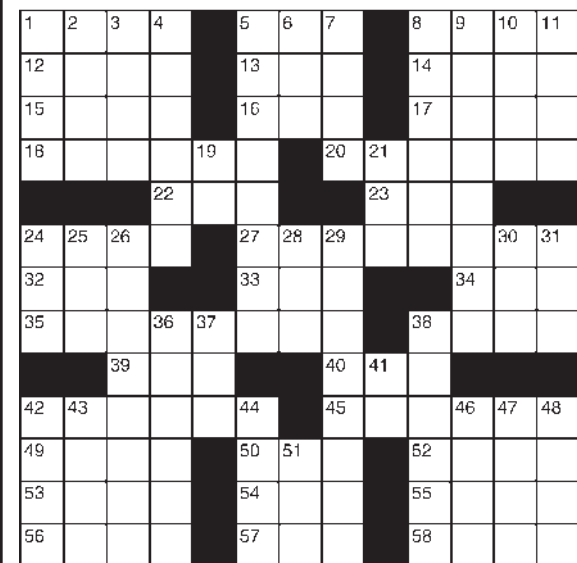
48 Twilight time

51 Sharp turn

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	C	B	M	Y	A	M	O	P	T	S		
M	O	R	E	E	R	E	F	L	E	A		
P	L	A	N	I	A	T	I	N	F	A	N	G
S	E	T	A	E	U	G	A	N	D	A		
J	A	P	E	E	L	A	N	T	A	D		
O	I	L	P	I	A	N	E	O	W	F		
B	R	A	R	E	N	O	K	N	E	W		
N	E	E	O	N	A	N						
U	N	C	A	P	S	N	I	D	U	S		
R	U	H	R	P	L	A	N	G	E	N	T	
A	D	E	N	I	I	H	A	D	A			
L	E	T	S	T	I	E	D	T	R	O	T	

Yesterday's answer 12-26



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayley Williams, 25; Emilie de Ravin, 32; Aaron Stanford, 37; Gerard Depardieu, 65.

Happy Birthday: Don't leave anything to chance this year. Organization and preparation will be key in getting what you want and accomplishing what you set out to do. Your discipline and hard work will pay off when it comes to your professional challenges. Opportunity will knock and you must be ready to make your move with confidence. Look, see and do. Your numbers are 5, 13, 23, 29, 38, 42, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay put. Reflect on the year gone by and make mental adjustments that will lead to productivity and fulfillment. Don't overreact or overindulge to avoid what needs to be done to reach your goals. Steer clear of emotional flare-ups. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a difference by putting your chores aside and spending time with friends and family or helping out in your community. The attention you give to others will be appreciated. You will end up getting far more than you give, so enjoy. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get your budget set up and your goals and strategy in place. You will feel better about your future if you approach the new year with a realistic vision. Do what's best for you, not what others want you to do. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Helping others will bring you great joy and earn you a spot in someone's heart. Get together with loved ones and do something in-

teresting that will enhance your relationships. By putting love first, you will teach others the value of life. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be bogged down with added responsibilities. Don't overload your plate, causing you to make errors. Mishaps due to exhaustion or trying to do the impossible can be expected. Protect your home and your possessions. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Fit in as much as you can to your hectic schedule. Make plans with and promises to someone you love. A social event will bring you in contact with someone who has something to offer you. Redefine what you want before accepting. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to face opposition and emotional upset when dealing with friends, family and community concerns. You are best to step back and listen to all sides objectively if you want to avoid being criticized. Avoid excessive or unpredictable behavior. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll learn a lot by observing how other people react to the ideas you have and the plans you intend to put into motion. Don't be afraid to take a journey that will change your life, pattern or way of living. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reconnect with people you have worked with in the past and you will be given a lead on a position of interest. A change of plans or direction will lift your spirits. A new adventure looks promising. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Respond carefully or you may give someone the wrong impression. It will be easy to upset someone or start a feud if you are too set in your way or beliefs. Avoid discussing religion or politics. Compromise if necessary. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep a low profile and take care of responsibilities to avoid complaints. It's important to make whatever adjustments required to your finances. Don't let an impulsive situation end up costing you. Ask questions and get the facts before moving forward. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Reconnect with people you haven't seen for some time. Partnerships look good and both personal and professional agreements can be made with confidence. Romance is on the rise and making special plans for two will bring you closer to someone you love. ★★★★★



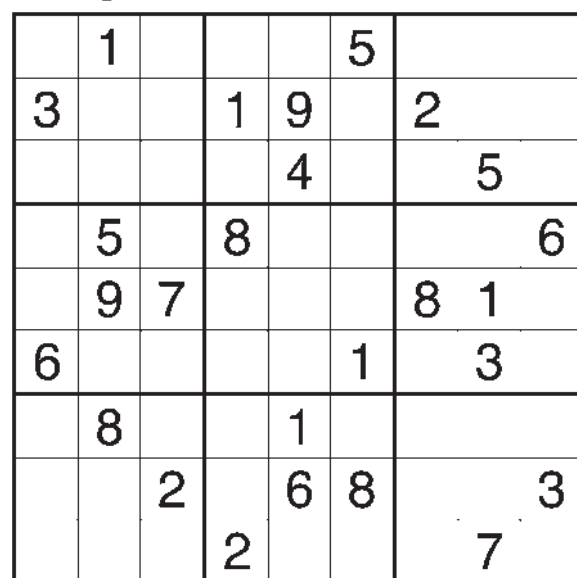
Birthday Baby: You are discreet and willful. You are engaging and confident.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



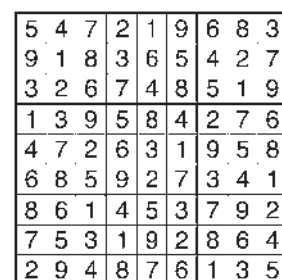
Difficulty Level ★★★

12/26

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

12/27

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SIR DAVID FROST (1939-2013)

Solution: 8 letters



©2013 Universal Jclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook

12/26
BBC, Book, Breakfast, British, Broadcaster, Call, Carina, Chelsea, Comedian, Concorde, Cricket, Dave, David, Degree, Editor, Emmy, Fame, Famous Five, Father, Film, Football, George, Host, Interviews, Journalist, Kent, Leaders, Lynne, Miles, Nixon, Open, Paradine, Richard, Satire, Speaker, Talent, Talk, UNICEF, Week, Wilfred, World, Writer
Yesterday's Answer: Snowfall
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, call 1-800-642-6480. Or on line at: wonderword.universalclic.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Piping hot

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune’s Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

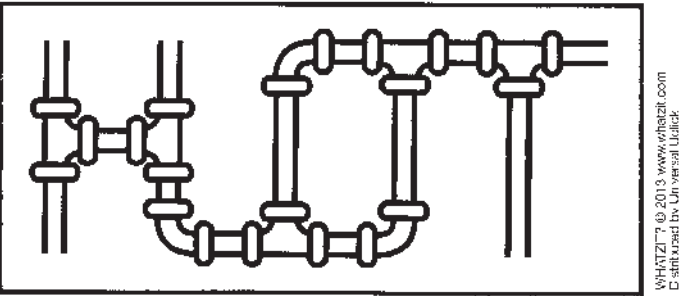
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today’s solution in classified section

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Beautician. Salary \$5.55/hr. 1 year experience. Call 433-2706 Salon De Tinian.

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Farmer. Salary \$5.55. Minimum of 2 years experience. Call 433-5333, Island Garden.

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Cook. Salary \$5.55. Minimum of 2 years experience. Call 433-5333, Island Garden.

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Restaurant Supervisor. Salary \$5.55. Minimum of 2 years experience. Call 433-5333, Island Garden.

Tinian Prospect Company

is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions for construction project on Tinian.

(2)	Project manager	\$10.00/hr.	(3 years experience)
(10)	Project engineer	\$6.50/hr.	(2 years experience)
(3)	Accountant	\$6.00/hr.	(2 years experience)
(165)	Construction Workers	\$5.55/hr.	(2 years experience)
(20)	Equipment Operator	\$5.55/hr.	(2 years experience)

Interested applicants may send their resume to bmchen8@yahoo.com masseuse

Deadline to submit application will be end on January 15, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE

2001, WHITE, LINCOLN LIMOUSINE;
9 PASSENGER CAPACITY IN GOOD CONDITION.

ASKING PRICE \$5,000 OR
BEST OFFER.

CONTACT FIESTA
RESORT AT 234-6412
AND ASK FOR RONEL SUNGA OR RONNIE ANO.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

CLUBMATE
Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test). Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) TEAM LEADER – for Boutiki
Applicants must have a minimum of 1 year of work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills (oral and written) as well as excellent customer service skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR – for Boutiki (part-time)
Minimum one (1) year of work experience handling clerical work involved with receiving, storing, stocking, inventory and distribution of supplies for the Boutiki store. Must have good computer skills and have the ability to bend, lift, carry, push, reach and handle inventory supplies weighing 50-75 pounds. Must have the ability to speak, read and comprehend the English language. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BANQUETS ASSISTANT (Temporary position)
Must have at least one (1) year of relevant work experience coordinating events. Must be proficient with the use of Microsoft Office software, be a detail-oriented individual and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application.
Skills testing may be required for some positions. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, January 3, 2014.

Empowered to grow

Caronel Watch Center Saipan

is seeking motivated and experienced candidates for the position of:

Part Time Sales Associates

- Previous retail experience
- Ability to provide excellent customer service
- Able to work flexible schedules
- Foreign language skills a plus

EEO. Apply in person at Caronel Watch Center
10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday - Saturday
1st Floor, Kase II Building, Garapan, Saipan

Think Asia. Think DKSH

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**
2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
\$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
\$550/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
\$350-\$450/month

FEATURES:

- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment
235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT WINCHELL'S DONUTS

1 vacancy for **Operations Manager.** Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level with at least 5 years of continued experience in managing a bakery or similar operations; must be capable of managing 15 or more people and more than one store; must be computer literate and possesses knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must have an experience in handling the administrative and financial aspect of a business. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

1 vacancy for **Store Manager.** Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 2 years of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers.** Wage ranges from \$5.55/hr to \$5.70/hr. Must be a high school graduate with an equivalent of at least 4 years experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills and knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and must undergo a drug test.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at Winchell's Garapan from 8am to 12pm or email them at dennys@guam.net

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
5 - Masseur
Salary \$5.55 p/h. High School graduate.
Minimum 5 years experience. Knowledge in
Chinese and Japanese languages a plus.
If interested, email thomasthong@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Clinical Embryologist
Must have 2 years lab experience, plus
experience in clinical embryology.
Salary Negotiable.
Call Karen at 322-0419

Warehouse for RENT
REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #4 - Size: 9,000sq/ft
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
**Samsung, Philips,
Vizio...etc**
Call for more information
233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday
9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP 14-DPS/BMV-029

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 27, 2014 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF A POWER GENERATOR BACK-UP AND REQUIRED ELECTRICAL
SYSTEM UPGRADES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLE"**

THE RFP PACKET WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 27, 2013** AND MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **JANUARY 08, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, CONFERENCE ROOM, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS FOR THIS RFP MAY BE SUBMITTED TO POLICE OFFICER JAMES R. RABAUIMAN, PROJECT MANAGER VIA EMAIL AT [jrabauman@dps.gov.mp](mailto:jrabauiman@dps.gov.mp) NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JANUARY 10, 2014**. **RESPONSES** TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER PROPOSERS AND WILL BE SENT OUT NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANUARY 15, 2014.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**INVITATION FOR BID
MVA-IFB-14-2310**

For: Purchase of Vehicles for the Marianas Visitors Authority

Closing Date: **January 30, 2014** Time: **3:00 P.M.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
San Jose Professional Building
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
Acting Chairman of the Board

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

**INVITATION FOR BID
MVA-RFP-14-2311**

For: Tourist Exit Survey Services for the Marianas Visitors Authority

Closing Date: **January 30, 2014** Time: **3:00 P.M.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
San Jose Professional Building
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
Acting Chairman of the Board

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled the MPLT Trustees meeting for Monday, December 30, 2013 beginning 4:00pm at the MPLT office at 1222 Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
■ Investment Consultant Report
● Flash Report –*deferred*
● Alternative Investment (MLP)
■ Board Consultant
● Financial Report – *deferred*
● CHCC – LOC Monitoring

IV LEGAL MATTERS
■ Legal Counsel Report
■ DPL issues

V OLD BUSINESS
■ RFP 13-02 FY 13 & 14 Audit
■ Supplemental Home Investment Program (SHIP)
■ Investment Policy Statement (IPS)
■ Service Providers Disclosure
■ MPLT real property

VI COMMUNICATIONS

VII NEW BUSINESS

VIII MISCELLANEOUS

IX ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ **Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero**
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
TO LEASE AND OPERATE A LIMITED FOOD
& BEVERAGE CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO
C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

CPA-RFP-003-14

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites the submission of proposal to lease and operate a Limited Food & Beverage Concession at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals prepared in accordance with instructions stated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be received and accepted by the CPA until 4:30 p.m., January 6, 2014. Late proposals will not be considered. The CPA is not responsible for late or misdirected delivery of proposals.

The proposal packages and other consideration may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning December 6, 2013 during the hours of 7:30 to 4:30 upon the payment of \$50.00. This payment is nonrefundable. Payments shall be made at the Accounting Office which is located at the 2nd floor on the Departure Terminal in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

One original and two copies of the proposals shall be submitted in a sealed package and clearly marked on the outside "Proposal to Lease and Operate a Limited Food & Beverage Concession CPA-RFP-003-14."

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
TO LEASE AND OPERATE FOOD & BEVERAGE
CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

CPA-RFP-004-14

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
03-2013**

Opening date: December 17, 2013 **Closing date: January 3, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Accountant-I (Saipan)
(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I (Tinian)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, January 3, 2014**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA Human Resources by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

Operations Clerk (01)

Job Duties: Plan, create, arrange and operate tour and travel programs. Responsible for organizing and preparing tour itineraries to make sure meeting visitors requirements. Provide and organize vacation and holidays packages by coordinating and negotiating with airlines, hotels, ground transportation services, tour guides and sightseeing providers, restaurants and other similar businesses, as per contact and agreed customer service levels. Develop and maintain smooth working relationship with customers and business partners both in China and domestic. Provide advice on sightseeing and shopping activities, report any problems to related supervisor/manager, and solve problems with accommodations, itineraries or service, etc. Perform related administrative tasks such as processing paperwork and maintaining files and working comfortably both independently and within a team. Assist the Department Manager in achieving his/her objectives. Input and update of bookings records. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum of 1 year of operation experience. High school education minimum. Good command of English and Chinese. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good writing and communication skills. Focus on details and thoroughness. Able to work with a team & under pressure. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort, Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Thursday, January 2, 2014. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing may be required prior to employment.

*We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.*

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Operations Manager
Job duties: The operations manager is responsible in planning and implementation of the overall business direction of the company. Responsible for creating production and marketing plans and making sure these plans are implemented and targets are achieved accordingly.

Job requirements: Minimum 5 years experience in managing shrimp aquaculture business. Must have the technical knowledge on shrimp farming as well as the skills necessary in business management. Must be a graduate of a 4-year degree course related to aquaculture or business management and have proven track record of managing businesses and people. The position also requires being on call 24 hours, 7 days a week. Basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems also required.

Electrician
Job duties: Pull out, installation, repair and maintenance of water pumps, motor aerators, and other support equipment for aquaculture. Repair and maintenance of electrical installations, building, and other structures. Repair and maintenance of heavy duty generators.

Job requirements: Minimum 4 years experience in electrical and mechanical works. Related engineering degree and previous experience in aquaculture operations is an advantage and preferred. Willing to be on call 24 hours a day. Able to lift up to 75lbs.

Accountant
Job duties: Prepare, examine or analyze accounting record, financial statements or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Report to management regarding the finances of establishments. Establish tables of accounts and design entries to proper accounts. Develop, implement, modify and document record keeping and accounting systems. Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements.

Job requirements: Accounting graduate or 4 years bachelor degree in accounting. Minimum 5 years experience in accounting. Well-versed in Peachtree accounting or any other accounting software. Must be skilled in use of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Strong communication and interpersonal skills, team player and with positive attitude.

Aquaculture Farmer
Job duties: Feeding and monitoring of live aquatic animals, cleaning of tanks, weighing of feeds, harvesting and packing, nighttime monitoring, grounds maintenance and other related jobs.

Job requirements: High school graduate, in good physical and health condition, able to lift up to 60lbs., knowledge of basic mathematical calculations. Must be willing to work night shifts, be a team player and with good working attitude.

Sales Representative
Job duties: Market development, delivery, collection and other customer relations duty. Formulations of sales and marketing strategies. Market survey and analysis and competitor benchmarking.

Job requirements: Minimum experience of 4 years in the seafood retail and wholesale business. Professional driving skills required. Proficient in MS Word and Excel. With proven track record in sales specifically in market development. With excellent oral and written communication skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, January 06, 2014.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Heat beats Lakers 101-95 for 6th straight victory



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers missed having Kobe Bryant out on the court on Christmas Day. Same for LeBron James.

Playing without its biggest star, Los Angeles stayed right with the Miami Heat for most of the day before slipping to a 101-95 loss against the defending NBA champions on Wednesday.

Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade had 23 points apiece, and James added 19 points in the Heat's sixth straight win. Bosh grabbed 11 rebounds and Ray Allen made four 3-pointers for 12 points, helping Miami improve to 5-0 against the Lakers on the holiday.

"I knew we would get a good game out of them, and I think the NBA wanted a good game," James said, noting the blowout results of the first two games on the league's holiday schedule.

Bryant was relegated to the sideline with his fractured left knee, leaving him unable to extend his NBA record for Christmas Day appearances to 16.

"It's not as special when Kobe's not out there," said James, who shared a post-game hug with Bryant.

Streaky reserve Nick Young scored 20 points for the Lakers, who were tied four times in the fourth quarter. Jodie Meeks added 17 points, Xavier Henry had 14 and Pau Gasol added 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Miami shot 51 percent from the field while improving to 7-0 against the Western Conference this season. It was its 19th straight win overall against West opponents.

Bosh scored 13 of his 23 points in the first half, when Miami trailed 27-21 after the first quarter.

"I just made an effort to get to the basket a little more," he said. "We just kept wearing on them offensively. They made some tough shots."

Los Angeles shot 42 percent in its third straight loss. The Lakers were 14 of 36 from 3-point range as they tried to go over the top to beat the Heat's



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade shoots over Los Angeles Lakers center Jordan Hill during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2013. The Heat won 101-95.

rugged interior.

"Teams will try to get us moving and play out of our rotations," Heat coach Eric Spoelstra said. "Early on they were getting some wide-open ones. Some of those Nick Young hit were tough."

Jordan Farmar returned from a left hamstring tear after missing 10 games, giving the Lakers a true point guard to run the offense. But he was ineffective, with three points and two assists in 32 minutes.

"I hadn't even played 5-on-5 since I got hurt, so this is the first time I've actually played basketball," he said. "Health-wise, everything stayed intact and I felt good out there, so it's progress."

The Lakers played a competitive game against the loaded Heat despite their poor shooting and the absence of Bryant, Steve Nash (nerve root irritation) and Steve Blake (right elbow). They led by 10 points and

never trailed by more than that.

"I thought we attacked them the way we wanted to," Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said. "We can step it up a bit and be a little bit tougher, especially on the boards and places like that. Those things are irritating, but the effort is good."

Young's basket tied the game for the last time at 83-all. The Heat promptly took off on a 13-5 run. Wade, Norris Cole and James scored all of the Heat's points.

Young answered with his fourth 3-pointer of the game and Meeks made 1 of 2 free throws to pull the Lakers to 96-92 with 1:26 to play. But Wade had an acrobatic reverse layup and James made two foul shots to give Miami some breathing room.

Young scored 12 points in the third, when the Lakers trailed by nine before scoring the final seven points of the period, capped by Young's 3-pointer,

to trail 76-74 heading into the fourth.

Allen and Wade combined to score the Heat's first 13 points of the second, with Allen hitting 3-pointers to bookend the run and pull the Heat into a 34-all tie.

Bosh took over and scored 10 points in a row, including a layup that gave Miami just its second lead of the game, 40-39. James interrupted Bosh's offensive spurt with a one-handed dunk off Wade's fast-break alley oop.

"Anytime Dwyane gets on the break I try to chase him down," James said. "I didn't know what he was going to do. The only way I can catch it is with my left (hand). I just tried to improvise. I got to see it again."

Warriors 105, Clippers 103

In Oakland, California, Klay Thompson blocked a shot by Chris Paul and then contested Jamal Crawford's 3-pointer that

fell short at the final buzzer, helping the Golden State Warriors hold off the Los Angeles Clippers in a game that featured a pair of ejections.

Paul's lay-in with 11.9 seconds left went around the rim and out, but Andre Iguodala missed a pair of free throws with 9.3 seconds remaining. That gave the Clippers the ball back with 8.3 seconds to go.

Stephen Curry overcame a slow start to score six of his 15 points over the final 3:01 as Golden State ended the Pacific Division-leading Clippers' season-best five-game winning streak.

Blake Griffin was ejected for his second technical with 10:43 remaining after scuffling with Andrew Bogut, following Golden State's Draymond Green to the showers after they got into it at the end of the third.

Thunder 123, Knicks 94

In New York, Kevin Durant

scored 29 points and Russell Westbrook had a triple-double by the middle of the third quarter as Oklahoma rolled past New York, which played without Carmelo Anthony.

The Durant-Anthony showdown between the NBA's top two scorers was canceled because of Anthony's sprained left ankle, so the Thunder had the Christmas spotlight to themselves while winning for the 10th time in 11 games. The 29-point victory was the largest for a road team on Christmas.

Westbrook finished with 14 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists in his first triple-double of the season and seventh of his career. Serge Ibaka added 24 points on 10-of-14 shooting.

Amare Stoudemire scored a season-high 22 points, and Tim Hardaway Jr. had 21 for the Knicks, who also were missing point guard Raymond Felton. J.R. Smith scored 20 points, but shot 8 for 22 and was booed when he left the court for good.

Rockets 111, Spurs 98

In San Antonio, James Harden scored 28 points and Dwight Howard had 15 points and 20 rebounds, leading balanced Houston past San Antonio.

Each of Houston's starters scored in double figures to help the Rockets improve to 2-0 against the Spurs this season. Chandler Parsons and Terrence Jones each scored 21 points, and Jeremy Lin had 13 points, eight assists and only one turnover.

Manu Ginobili led San Antonio with 22 points.

Bulls 95, Nets 78

In New York, Taj Gibson scored 20 points and Jimmy Butler added 15 to help Chicago rout Brooklyn.

Butler keyed a 21-5 run that gave Chicago control in the third quarter. Returning from a right ankle injury that sidelined him a game, Butler started the burst with a 3-pointer and had a three-point play that made it 57-52.

Deron Williams scored 18 points for Brooklyn. The Nets have lost four straight.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant wasn't happy about spending Christmas Day on the sideline, unable to help the struggling Los Angeles Lakers.

It's a place he's unaccustomed to being on the holiday. Bryant leads the NBA with a record 15 appearances on Christmas Day, but he's out an expected four to six weeks with a fracture in his left knee.

"It's strange to be coming in on Christmas and not playing," he said before the Lakers' 101-95 loss to the Miami Heat on Wednesday. "It's a foreign feeling, but I'm here to support my guys."

LeBron James and Co. have

No Kobe on Christmas; says recovery is 'slow'

won six in a row, and the Lakers have dropped three straight.

"It's not as special when Kobe's not out there," James said afterward.

Bryant's injury was diagnosed last week, his second major one of the season.

He didn't play his first game until Dec. 8 after nearly eight months away while recovering from a torn Achilles tendon. Then he got hurt again Dec. 17 at Memphis while playing his fourth game in five nights.

"I was fortunate that it was not a meniscus," he said.

Initially, Bryant didn't think

he was seriously hurt against Memphis. He went down late in the third quarter, but returned to finish out the victory in which he logged a season-high 21 points in 32 minutes.

"I didn't know it was fractured," he said. "I was expecting a bone bruise more than anything else. I thought (the doctor) was joking when he told me."

Bryant has been limited to riding a bike; he isn't supposed to put any pressure on his knee.

"It's just been slow in terms of laying off it and letting it heal," he said. "When you don't have activity, you got to

watch the other parts like nutrition."

Typical of Bryant's attention to detail, he said he has been reading critical comments that suggest he won't return this season.

"It's the same old tune, just being sung a little more loudly now," he said. "These type of things just help me lock in more."

Asked if there's any chance he won't be back, Bryant replied, "Not that I'm aware of."

James said, "When he comes back he's going to play at a high level."

concern to me," he said. "The biggest question was would the Achilles respond to my game. It felt fine. It was strong."

Bryant was looking forward to playing against the defending NBA champions as a way to see where he was physically with his Achilles.

"This was a really big measuring stick," he said.

Instead, he sat at the end of the bench wearing a black suit and print T-shirt. He sat on a chair with extra inches of padding, likely to take stress off his left knee.

"My spirits are fine," he said. "I feel more locked in now than my entire career."

Kyle Orton appears set to start for Cowboys



IRVING, Texas (AP)—Kyle Orton and Jon Kitna sat at opposite ends of a couch in the Dallas Cowboys' locker room Wednesday, turned toward each other and started chatting.

They probably were talking about Dallas' offense.

Orton will make his first start at quarterback in his two seasons with the Cowboys on Sunday night, unless Tony Romo can recover from a herniated disc. Dallas will be playing a winner-take-all game at home against the Philadelphia Eagles for the NFC East title and a playoff berth.

Romo was nowhere to be seen in any of the public areas at Valley Ranch. He did not practice, and didn't attend a morning offensive meeting, according to coach Jason Garrett.

"I'm just excited," Orton said. "I think the guys have got a lot of confidence in me. I've got a lot of confidence in myself. I can fall back on my experience. I've played a lot of games." Garrett still hasn't ruled out Romo.

"I saw him briefly today. He's fighting through it. He's doing everything he can to get back. He's going through the rehab process."

"We'll evaluate him day to day, the same as most players

who are injured."

Asked whether he thought Romo would play Sunday, Garrett said, "We'll have to see. It seems like he is feeling a little bit better."

Orton's most recent start was in Week 17 of 2011 for Kansas City in a 7-3 victory over the Denver Broncos. He had started the season with Denver, but was released after losing the starting job to Tim Tebow, who led the Broncos to the playoffs.

The 31-year-old Orton has a 35-34 record in 69 starts in nine NFL seasons.

For Dallas, Orton has ap-

peared in three games, completing 12 of 15 passes for 129 yards.

Garrett said even that limited experience was valuable.

"Any time, at any position, it's good to play," Garrett said.

Romo has been an active participant in preparing game plans, and Garrett said Orton's input would be welcomed.

"We always want our players to communicate with us," Garrett said.

"We have a lot of ideas as coaches. We want our players to be comfortable with us, and we want their feedback."

Orton said until this week he hadn't taken any in-season snaps with the first-team offense, but he believes the starters are comfortable with him.

"I was fortunate to get a lot of reps during OTAs (when Romo was recovering from back surgery)," Orton said. "I've been here a couple of years, so I've had plenty of experience with these guys."

Kitna arrived back at Valley Ranch on Wednesday, also for the first time in two years, as the No. 3 quarterback or as Orton's backup.

Garrett said Kitna's job

would be to run the scout team, simulating the Eagles' offense.

He's familiar with that role, because for the last two years he has been running the scout team for Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Wash., where he is head coach.

The 41-year-old Kitna had retired from the Cowboys after going on injured reserve because of a back injury.

The 15-year veteran also missed most of the 2008 season because of a herniated disc.

Though he seemed skeptical that Romo could play Sunday,

Kitna said, "There are varying levels (of herniated discs)."

Quarterbacks David Carr, Tyler Thigpen, John Skelton, Caleb Hanie and Richard Bartel worked out for the Cowboys on Tuesday, but Garrett said the deciding factor was Kitna's experience and familiarity with Dallas' offensive system.

"I think he was gung-ho. He actually reached out to us," Garrett said. "My comment back was 'Are you serious?' He said, 'Absolutely.' He spoke to his family about it, and it just made sense."

Foles still hears about 1 bad game vs. Cowboys

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Foles has a new nickname that's appropriate this time of year: Saint Nick.

Foles hardly resembles jolly, old Santa Claus, but he's given fans of the Philadelphia Eagles plenty of gifts this year. They want one more Sunday.

A victory over the Dallas Cowboys (8-7) would clinch the NFC East title for the Eagles (9-6) and secure the No. 3 seed in the conference. It's already been a remarkable turnaround under rookie coach Chip Kelly after a 4-12 finish last year.

But this story is far from complete. For all of his accomplishments, Foles is constantly

reminded about the first time the Eagles played the Cowboys.

Both teams were 3-3 when Dallas came to Philadelphia, shut down Kelly's high-flying offense and knocked Foles out of the game with a concussion at the end of the third quarter. Foles was 11 of 29 for 80 yards in the 17-3 loss, a dismal performance in only his second start after replacing an injured Michael Vick.

"I know everybody is going to dwell on last time, but this game isn't the last game," Foles said.

Foles returned from the concussion two weeks later and threw seven touchdown passes to tie an NFL record in a victory at Oakland. He leads the league

with a passer rating of 118.8, which is third-highest in the history of the NFL. He's thrown 25 TD passes to only two interceptions. He's led the Eagles to a 7-2 record in nine starts and has them on the verge of going worst to first in the division.

Yet, he's still asked about that first game against Dallas on Oct. 20. See, beating the Cowboys is an obsession in Philadelphia. It's almost equivalent to a playoff game every time they face the boys with the stars on their helmet.

"If I look into every little thing that I did and try to break it down, I'll drive myself crazy as well," Foles said. "We've been

asked that question several times and everyone wants an answer, but I think the answer is that we had a bad day. We did not play well, but from that game we've grown together as a team."

The offense has been nearly unstoppable with Foles under center since. Foles is having one of the best seasons in franchise history. The offense has set team records with eight games of 30-plus points and six games of at least 450 total yards. They're 22 points and 79 yards away from setting club records for most points and most yards.

So, maybe that loss to Dallas didn't hurt them too much after all.

"We use that game as not necessarily fuel, but it was character-building," Foles said. "Tough games like that, tough things in life, you face adversity and it hurts. You don't feel good. You feel it in your heart; it's not fun. But you learn how to get better. You overcome obstacles and you grow together as a team, and that's the beauty of it. We kept rallying and we kept sticking together."

There were critics who thought Foles folded under pressure the first time against the Cowboys. Though it was only Week 7, first place was on the line, and he was still trying to prove himself worthy of being the starter.

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Togawa takes December Ace



Yuko Togawa edged Sherlyn Jones in the scorecard tie-break to win the CNMI

Women's Golf Association's December Ace of the Month title.

Togawa and Jones finished this month's tournament held on the west course of the Laolay Bay Golf & Resort with similar net scores of 69. However, Togawa's better scores on the front and back nines (41 and 33) allowed the 5-handicapper to prevail in the tiebreak. Jones, who sported a 13 handicap, had a 42 and 40 on the front nines, respectively, for a gross 82.

Joining Togawa and Jones in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Women's Golf Association members pose for a photo before heading out to the west course of the Laolay Bay Golf Resort during their December tournament early this month.

the Top 3 was Shiori Onoue, who also won in a tiebreak

against Mio Kim. Onoue's 40 and 39 and 4 handicap gave her

a gross score off 79 and net of 75, tying Kim. The 14-handi-

Manny thanks Floyd for remembering him

By AQUILES Z. ZONIO
INQUIRER MINDANAO



GENERAL SANTOS

CITY—World eight-division boxing champ and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao refused to stoop to Floyd Mayweather's Twitter swipe, saying Christmas season is a time to ponder God's profound love for humanity.

"I'm thanking Floyd Mayweather that he has not forgotten me. I'm glad that he is still thinking of me," Pacquiao told the Inquirer.

Pacquiao claimed he is busy doing some charity works like visiting a sick friend and giving gifts to the needy, among others.

"Christmas reminds us of God's greatest love for us. He teaches us to love even our enemies. So, I won't say anything

that would hurt anybody," Pacquiao said.

On Monday, Floyd Mayweather Jr. posted a collage of photos aimed at deriding the Filipino ring icon. It spoke about how Mayweather feels regarding the much-awaited showdown between him and Pacquiao.

Boxing fans around the world drool to see the Pacquiao-Mayweather megabout.

On his website, www.mp8.

ph, Pacquiao put up a wholesome Christmas card with a greeting "Wishing you a blessed holiday season."

In the same site, Pacquiao also posted a message, "Manny Pacquiao loves every one of you and wishes you a very Merry Christmas! Remember this is the season to celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember His love for us. Please share that same love with everyone around you and God Bless."

ROLLERS

From Page 36

ing three consecutive triples. Vince Iba tallied the other 2 points for Rollers 4, while Santos made the insurance with the last field goal in the game. Before his second-half explosion, Santos had only 2 points.

With Santos still not finding his form, Rollers 4 leaned on Dixon Kwon and Isaiah Retan, who earned 6 points apiece to give their team a 17-14 cushion at the break. Rollers 5 stayed in contention after the first half with its decent 3-point shooting. Ylac

Caracut, Aaron Ogumoro, and Emmanuel Cobacha drained one triple apiece in the first 20 minutes of play.

Rollers 5 went cold from downtown in the second half, while Santos' guns were blazing.

Hula Girls 52, Tappers 44

In the girls division game last Saturday, Hula Girls defeated Tappers 44.

Jan-nasia Travilla had 22 points in the victory, winning a shootout against Alyanna Garon, who finished with 21 points.

Garon had Travilla's number

in the first half with the former firing 4 triples against the latter's one. However, Travilla's 7 points and Irish Pagarao's 8 markers were enough to offset Garon's 12 points and give Hula Girls a 21-17 advantage at half-time.

Travilla continued to hit her shots in the second half and added 15 more points to lift Hula Girls to the 8-point win, while Garon struggled in the early minutes of the final frame before regaining her touch late in the period and making three more treys.

With the win, Hula Girls joined Wrecking Balls on top of the four-team field.

Wrecking Balls won its opener against Futball and goes for victory No. 2 today when it faces Tappers at 6:30pm. Two more matches are set for today with Rollers 1 and Rollers 5 colliding at 5:30pm and Rollers 3 and Rollers 4 meeting in the 7:30pm game.

BOYS DIVISION First Game

Rollers 4 42 – J. Santos 15, Retan 8, Kwon 6, A. Santos 4, Toves 4, Jiang 2, Iba 2.

Rollers 5 40 – Caracut 9, Cobacha 9, Ogumoro 8, Yu 6, Bordon 4, Tengco 2.

Scoring by halves: 17-14,

outclassed the NSA Braves in the title showdown, 8-4. Completing the roster of teams that gained titles wins at the "Tan Ko" ballfield were the Padres, who handed the NSA Braves another bridesmaid finish with a 2-1 triumph in the closely fought finale.

Over at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, the defending champions are the Talaabwogh Falcons, who outclassed McDonald's in the finals, 5-1.

was Amy Sletten (1:04:57) of Saipan.

"The Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run is a great opportunity to explore some of the most scenic trails on Saipan," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "It's also one of the few races where you

capper Kim lost the tie after carding a 48 in the first nines holes and 41 in the last for a gross 89.

Other CWGA members who participated in the December tournament were Dolores Yamagishi (net 76), Terry Guerrero (76), Lorraine Babauta (79), Sun Suk Kim (80), Matilde Hocog (81), Kimike Abe (82), Mimi Castro (82), Jeon Me Ae (83), Pil Sun Kitami (78), and Noriko Togawa (73).

Though she recorded a field second-best net score of 73, Noriko Togawa missed the podium finish after failing to submit a

complete scorecard. Kitami also turned over an incomplete scorecard to land out of the Top 10.

CWGA ranked its members in every tournament as points are awarded to each member after the monthly competition. Fifteen points are given to the No. 1 finisher and 14 and 13 to the runner-up and third placer, respectively. Multiple points are given up to the Top 10 finisher, while players missing the cut are awarded one point. At the end of the season (March), the golfer with the most points is recognized at the awards ceremony. *(Roselyn B. Monroy)*

Christmas Island Relay tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Athletics will host the 32nd Annual Christmas Island Relay tomorrow.

The 13.7-mile race will start at the southern parking lot of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and end at the Last Command Post in Marpi. The race will begin at 6am.

Participants will compete in mixed teams of five runners, who will individually alternate through one-mile stages from start to finish. One of the members of each team must either be 16 years old or younger, a female, or in the 40-and-above age group. Solo runners are also

encouraged to tackle the same course.

The relay is just one of the many activities and events that NMA hosts in its continued efforts to promote physical fitness, health, and wellness and fight obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and many other medical conditions that plague the people of the CNMI.

As the last event of every busy year, NMA will host this event in the spirit of good tidings and goodwill with a hearty little breakfast as a way to reach out and thank the many people who have participated in so many NMA events. *(PR)*



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	11	15	.423	—
Boston	12	17	.414	½
New York	9	19	.321	3
Brooklyn	9	19	.321	3
Philadelphia	8	20	.286	4

Southeast Division

Miami	22	6	.786	—
Atlanta	15	13	.536	7
Charlotte	14	15	.483	8½
Washington	12	13	.480	8½
Orlando	8	20	.286	14

Central Division

Indiana	23	5	.821	—
Detroit	14	16	.467	10
Chicago	11	16	.407	11½
Cleveland	10	17	.370	12½
Milwaukee	6	22	.214	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	22	7	.759	—
Houston	19	11	.633	3½
Dallas	16	12	.571	5½
New Orleans	12	14	.462	8½
Memphis	12	15	.444	9

Northwest Division

Portland	23	5	.821	—
Oklahoma City	23	5	.821	—
Denver	14	13	.519	8½
Minnesota	13	15	.464	10
Utah	8	23	.258	16½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	20	10	.667	—
Phoenix	17	10	.630	1½
Golden State	17	13	.567	3
L.A. Lakers	13	16	.448	6½
Sacramento	8	19	.296	10½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BASEBALL

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Team names have yet to be released, but Rogolifoi said the squads that joined the 2013 season are likely to carry the same names. The Tan Holdings Brewers won last year's championship and pennant. The Brewers dominated the IP&E Fielders in a best-of-five title series, 3-1, to rule the five-team field. The Brewers earlier won the pennant after edging

the Saipan Stevedore Yankees in a tiebreak game, 12-10. The Brewers and Yankees slugged it out for the pennant after completing the three-round robin regular season with similar 10-2 records. The D-9ers and St. Michael Angels were the two other squads that participated in last season's SBL.

Meanwhile, the "Tan Ko" ballfield will be busy, starting next month, as Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. will also kick off its 2014 season

on Jan. 17.

Rogolifoi, who is also the president of SLLBI, said the defending champions are expected to be back this season in a bid to retain their respective titles.

The Red Sox are the defending champions in the Junior League, notching back-to-back titles after beating the JPO Enforcers in last year's finale, 5-3, at the "Tan Ko" ballfield. In the Senior League, the team to beat are the Fielders, who

petitors joined the race. Top place honors in the 15K course male category went to Nicholas Matinadale (1:49:55) of the U.S. In the female category, Solidad Tenorio (2:25:18) placed first. On the 10K course, the top male finisher was Paul Anthony (53:19) of Saipan, while the top female finisher

participation, and entry to the awards banquet on race day at 11:30am. Applications are now downloadable under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Show time and late registration on race day is at 5:30am, with the race starting at 6:30am.

In January 2013, 89 com-

MARIANAS

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through 5pm, Jan. 23, 2013, are: \$10 for ages 12 and under, \$15 for ages 13-18, and \$25 for ages 19 and up. An additional \$10 will apply after the early bird deadline. Entry fees included a finisher's T-shirt, certificate of

Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions Part 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Referee Tony D'Angelo talks to Trench Tech's Benjie Estoque (back turned) and Guam Muay Thai's Kyle "300" Martin before starting the kickboxing match in Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions held early this month at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.



Trench Tech's Benjie Estoque hits Guam Muay Thai's Kyle "300" Martin on the chin.



Guam Muay Thai's Kyle "300" Martin connects with a knee shot on Trench Tech's Benjie Estoque.



Down2Scrap's Kainoa Wanket, left, uses his grappling skills against independent fighter Franklin Agulto.



Marianas Elite's Ben Flores, right, attempts to pin down Spike 22's Rob "Shiska" Alvarez.



A badly beaten Vince "Sanity" Pua of Marianas Elite hangs on to Gracie Barra's Jose "Young Blood" Ramirez during the first round of their 160-lb bout.



Zalaka's Allan "The Silver Bullet" Aguon, left, kicks Pwang's Garry "Dissa" Ray on the face.



Trench Tech's Jasper "The Disaster" Van Der Maas kicks independent fighter Jones Langu.



Pwang's Garry "Dissa" Ray, bottom, tries to choke Zalaka's Allan "The Silver Bullet" Aguon.



Trench Tech's T.J. Sablan (leaning on the cage) and Tinian's Paul Ayuyu employ choke techniques against each other.



Heat beats Lakers
101-95 for 6th
straight victory

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Kyle Orton
appears set to
start for Cowboys

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36 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rollers 2 leads holiday hoops



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Futball's Negahr Rastgui, right, dribbles past Wrecking Balls' Rachel Abrams during the first half of their game in the Sun Palace holiday caging last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers 2 took the early lead in the boys division of the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament after outclassing Dream Team, 52-43, last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 2 improved to a 2-0 record to get the top spot in the seven-team field. Dream Team dropped its debut, sharing the bottom of the team standings with Rollers 1, Rollers 5, and FTMP (Funky Town Monkey Pimps), which have similar 0-1 slates. Completing the division are Rollers 3 and 4, which hold identical 1-0 marks.

Mike Espinosa top-scored in Rollers 2's win, drilling 21 points. He nailed three straight triples in the closing minutes of the second half to widen Rollers 2's gap against the all-female crew of Dream Team. Actually, the last five field goals of Rollers 2 all came from downtown with Jun Fidelino and Joemac Mangalo making the two other field goals.

Before its hot shooting from beyond the arc, Rollers 2 clung to a precarious 27-26 halftime lead and Dream Team momentarily grabbed the upper hand with Kyla Ito starting the second half with a triple. However, Rollers quickly regained the driver's seat and remained in control with Espinosa on target.

**Rollers 4 42,
Rollers 5 40**

In the other game in the boys division, Rollers 4 edged Rollers 5 to win its first game in the holiday tournament.

Jonathan Santos lifted Rollers 4 to the close win, scoring 13 of the team's

last 15 points. He carded a string of 13 points past the halfway mark of the second half, including

See ROLLERS on Page 34



Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 25



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicholas Matinadale of the U.S. led the 15K course to finish first in the 6th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 26, 2013.

The 7th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run will be held on Jan. 25, 2014, featuring some of the greatest views and most challenging terrain of all foot races in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Starting at sea level at American Memorial Park on Saipan, the Marianas Coffee Trail Run heads up 1,500 feet to the highest point of the island, going around the summit of Mt. Ta-

pochau before heading back to American Memorial Park. Sites along the way include Japanese-era coffee plantations and the Marianas Coffee Co. plantation.

Awards will be given for first, second, and third place overall male and female finishers in both the long course and short course. Course lengths will be announced shortly.

Early bird registration fees **See MARIANAS on Page 34**



Baseball action returns next month



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings Brewers catcher Manny Sablan, left, gets a hi-five from teammate Mike Pangelinan during Game 4 of their title series against the IP&E Fielders in the Saipan Baseball League last year at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Baseball games will be back at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios next month with Saipan Baseball League, Inc. opening its 2014 competition on Jan. 20.

The SBL (formerly known as Saipan Major League) so far has lured five teams, according to coordinator Tony Rogolifo. Rogolifo added representatives of participating and interested teams are requested to attend a meeting today at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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